

Levy County 4-H



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Vegetable Garden Record Book

UF | **IFAS Extension**
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



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18 U.S.C. 707

Junior

Intermediate

Senior



MAP OF YOUR GARDEN

ROWS RUN NORTH TO SOUTH

| BETWEEN ROW SPACING | WITHIN ROW PLANT SPACING | CROP |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 1 FT | 20" Okra 20" bell pepper | $\frac{1}{2}$ row okra $\frac{1}{2}$ row bell pepper |
| 2 FT | 4 inches | $\frac{1}{2}$ row turnip $\frac{1}{2}$ row onion |
| 2 FT | 2 - 3 inches | snap beans |
| 2 FT | 2- 3 inches | snap beans |
| 3-1/2 FT | 42 inches | squash |
| 3-1/2 FT | 42 inches | zucchini |
| 3 FT | 18 inches | cucumbers |
| 3 FT | 36 inches | tomatoes |
| 3 FT | 12 inches | sweet corn |
| 3 FT | 12 inches | sweet corn |

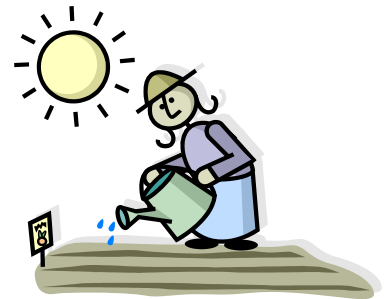




One of the NEW projects in 4-H is the **ANNUAL GARDEN PROJECT**. This event starts in late February or early March with the giving out of the garden kits. Each kit includes seeds, fertilizer, and pesticides for growing a garden 20 feet by 26 feet and is donated by **BRONSON, WILLISTON ACE HARDWARE AND CHIEFLAND FARM SUPPLY**. The gardens should be planted at least by mid- March so that most of the vegetables will be mature enough to exhibit by the May 18th You will need to plant 6 tomato and 5 bell pepper seedlings in March after all danger of frost has past.

Site Selection

- Garden site needs to have full sun at least 6 hours in mid-day.
- The site needs to be near irrigation.
- It should be a well-drained site. Avoid low, wet areas.
- Place your garden near your home.
- A fenced location is preferred.
- Your garden should be away from tree roots.



GETTING READY TO GARDEN

A soil test is needed to determine the pH of the soil. Although a soil test is not Absolutely necessary to grow a good garden, it is a good idea. To take a soil sample, make a V-cut with your shovel 6 inches in the ground (a representative sample of all the soil 6 inches down is needed). Take several samples from various spots around your garden plot and mix these up to make a total of about one pint. Your soil sample can be brought to the Ag Center on Monday **February 9th 2015** and we will check the pH free of charge. For a complete analysis, pick up a free soil sample kit that may be mailed to the University of Florida Soils Lab.



If the soil pH is below 5.5, lime or dolomite should be added to the soil at the rate of 3 to 4 pounds per 100 square feet. For the 780 square feet of your garden, this would work out to about 25 to 30 pounds for the entire space. For the best results, apply lime or dolomite several months before planting. If the weeds or vegetation are to be turned under, 4 to 6 weeks are needed to allow the organic matter to decompose.



Use a rake to break clods and level the ground. Rake up and remove all weeds and trash from the plot. When you have finished preparing the soil, it should be smooth with no clods or trash showing. You now have the soil ready to fertilize and plant your seeds.

If possible, a week before planting spread 1/2 of your fertilizer over the garden site.

Planting



Use stakes, string and a yardstick to mark off straight rows. The rows should be labeled with the crop variety and planting date. The vegetable plot is 26 feet wide and 20 feet long. There are 10 different vegetables including: yellow squash, turnips, okra (red), snap beans, onions, zucchini, sweet corn, cucumbers, bell peppers, & tomatoes. The vegetables may vary from year to year depending on the availability of seeds. The plan is provided to give you spacing, order and lay-out of the garden.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU FOLLOW THE PLAN EXACTLY.

Seeds can be planted so deep that the young plants cannot reach the top of the ground. Or they can be planted too shallow and may be washed away with the first rain. When sowing small seeds, cut or tear off a corner of the packet and scatter the seed in the furrow while tapping gently with your index finger. You can make the furrow with the handle of your hoe, drawing it along the string you have staked out. For larger seeds, open a deeper furrow. Space larger seed evenly and drop by hand. See diagram below.

DO NOT WALK ON ROW BEFORE OR AFTER PLANTING.

SMALL SEEDS

Turnip
1/4" deep

MEDIUM SEEDS

Cucumber
1/2" deep

LARGE SEEDS

Snap Beans
1" deep

REMEMBER TO SAVE SOME SEED IN CASE OF NEED TO REPLANT

FIRST TWO WEEKS

- Water daily unless we get rain. Goal is to wet top 1-2 inches of soil. Water in the early morning.
- In 7-10 days you should see plants beginning to sprout.
- At the end of two weeks lightly side dress with fertilizer.
- Apply mulch, about 2" deep, between rows.

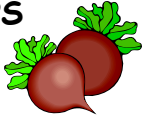
HELPFUL HINTS

1. **OKRA**



grow best in warm weather and are very susceptible to root nematodes. If weather stays cool for a long time in the spring, it may be necessary to replant.

2. **TURNIPS**



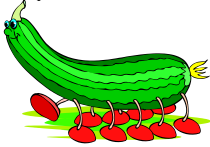
they must be thinned in order to produce a good root. The proper spacing is 4 to 6 inches in the row.

3. **GREEN BEANS**



do not like to be staked or tied like pole beans. The bean pods entered in the contest should be filled out.

4. **SQUASH**



are usually the first vegetable after the radishes to mature. The squash fruit should be harvested before it gets large and tough. Cold weather and pollination are reasons squash plants fail to set fruit. Normally this improves when the weather gets warmer.

5. **CUCUMBERS**



are more of a small compact plant which doesn't produce long runners. They are easy to grow, but may have the tendency to grow into other rows.

6. **BELL PEPPERS**



when planting your garden, leave a space for the bell pepper plants that you will purchase. Plan to plant 5 plants, spaced 20 inches apart. Transplant with care to prevent stunting growth and reduced yields.

7. **TOMATOES**



should be staked or supported to keep the fruit off the ground. When planting the garden, leave a space for your tomato plants that you will purchase. Night temperatures are important for tomatoes and the best range for fruit set is 65 to 68° F.

8. **SWEET CORN**



needs pollination and this is why two rows should be planted side-by-side. Corn can be easily blown over in a storm so when cultivating, throw a little extra soil around the base of the plants to keep them from falling over. The corn is mature when the silks at the ends of the ears turn brown and dry out.

9. **ONIONS**



set out the onion plants in each trench about one inch deep. Space the plants 4 to 6 inches apart. If you desire to harvest green onions during the growing season, you should space the plants closer, maybe 2 to 3 inches apart. By pulling every other plant for green onions, enough space is left to allow the others to continue bulbing. A most important step in growing optimum sized onions is to keep the soil loose around the bulbs. Start this soil loosening process early.

The scores from the vegetable garden, recordbook, and the vegetable exhibit are combined to determine the winners. The overall top five 4-Hers will receive plaques and all who complete the project will receive ribbons. Special awards will be given to the Best Garden, Best Record Book, and Best Exhibit.

JUDGING THE GARDEN

All gardens are graded for vigor, freedom from insects and diseases, and evidence of good cultural practices such as staking, labeling rows, mulching, etc. Grading will be done sometime during the month of May. The project ends with a vegetable exhibit and judging of the recordbooks. The exhibit and awards night is held the end of May, depending on the weather conditions during the growing time.

FILLING OUT THAT RECORDBOOK

A good recordbook is just as important as a good garden, so don't expect to do it the night before the awards are given out. Every year we have 4-Hers with gardens good enough to win a trophy, **BUT THEY HAVE A RED RIBBON BECAUSE THEIR RECORDBOOK WAS SLOPPY!**



The first page of your recordbook is easy if you know your name, age, and few other facts. The plan or map of the garden can be copied from the one given in this guide. The second page is a little harder, but is the most important part of your recordbook. The expenses are the cost of the garden kit, plus any other expenditure you might have had. Watch for your garden newsletter that will tell you the cost of the kit. The returns are determined by the store value of the produce that you harvest. This requires you to keep records of what you pick and how much it weighed. Store prices should be used to determine how much each item is worth. This should be done regularly because early squash will be worth more than late squash.

You **DON'T** have to sell anything to put a value on it. If you don't have enough room in the space given in the recordbook, use an additional page. To find out how much the garden was worth, simply subtract the expenses from the returns. Don't be afraid to show a loss. The most important thing is to keep good records of what you pick and if you don't have a scale, estimate the weight.

On a separate page, keep a diary or log of your daily activities. This would include planting, watering, weeding, fertilizing, and harvesting. Every time you work in the garden, record the date and what you did.

The last item in the recordbook is the garden story. This should tell what you learned from the project, if you like to garden, and anything unusual that happened to your garden.

Pictures of your garden help to make the recordbook more complete. To have a complete book, you must have at least three (3) pictures. Make sure they show you actually working in your garden. The recordbooks aren't graded by the number of pages but by the completeness of the information called for. Make sure that your book is neat and easily read. It is best if you write all the information on separate sheets of paper and then transfer it to the recordbook. The work should be your own.



The final part of the *LEVY COUNTY GARDEN PROJECT* is Exhibit Night. **Everyone who participates in the project must show to complete the project.** Exhibit Night consists of displaying four (4) different kinds of vegetables prepared in the prescribed manner.

Selecting vegetables for Exhibit is not hard, it only requires that you select those vegetables that are at the proper stage of maturity, of uniform size, and free from insect and disease damage. Vegetable selection can start 3 to 4 days prior to show time in order to achieve the desired uniformity and maturity.

EXAMPLE

Summer Yellow Squash

4 to 6 inches in length, free of insect damage and bruising.

Corn

kernels should be full (filled out) and mature. Make sure ears are uniform in length and free of insect damage.

Radish

generally mature and most tender at $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter.

Cucumber

medium sized (4 to 6 inches in length)

Onions

select large roots, but don't expect large bulbs

Zucchini Squash

select large fruits, 8 to 12 inches in length

Turnips

approximately 4 to 5 inches in diameter

Tomatoes

regular full size tomatoes may be shown green. They should be uniform size and free of insect and disease damage. They should not have growth cracks.

Okra

Pods should be 3-4 inches in length

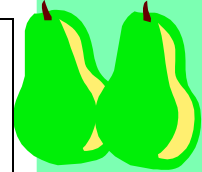
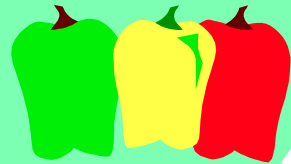
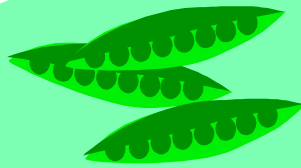
Snap Beans

Pods should be well filled out and uniform.

Bell Peppers

peppers should be firm and crisp, approximately 3 inches in diameter and should be selected while the color is still green.

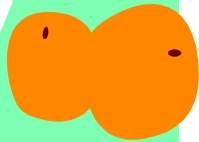
***THESE ARE NOT EXACT SPECIFICATIONS, BUT ARE SIMPLY A GUIDE TO GO BY.
VARIATION IN THESE FIGURES IS HIGHLY POSSIBLE.***



HOW TO DISPLAY

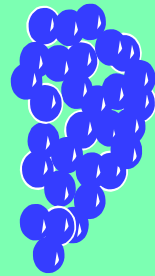
RADISH

5 ROOTS do not trim off tops.
DO NOT REMOVE TAP ROOT.

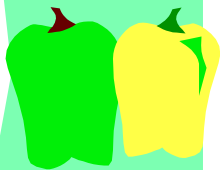


TURNIPS

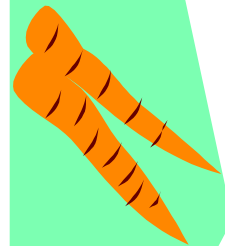
3 ROOTS, prepare same as for radish, or
leave top and tie into a bunch of three
plants.



SNAP BEANS 10 PODS



YELLOW SUMMER SQUASH 3 FRUITS

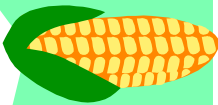


CUCUMBERS 3 FRUITS

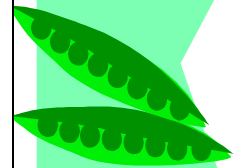
TOMATOES 5 FRUITS



SWEET CORN 3 EARS, HUSKED AND TRIMMED

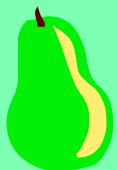


ZUCCHINI 3 FRUITS

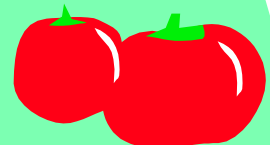
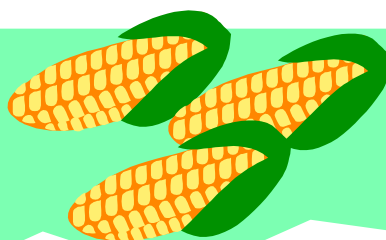
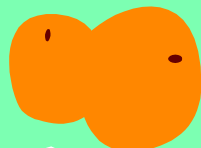
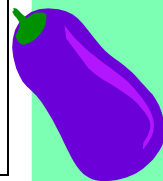


ONIONS 3 ROOTS, trim tops to 6 inches

BELL PEPPERS 3 FRUITS



OKRA 5 PODS



2015 Important Dates

March 2 - Packets hand out. Pick Up at the 4-H Office from 9:00am to 4:00pm.

March 16 - Project begins. Seeds must be planted.

May 11 to 15 - Gardens will be judged.

May 18 - Exhibit and produce judging. (Produce will be in the 4-H office before 4:00pm) **Garden Award Night at 6:00pm in the Extension Office.**