

GREEN THUMB GARDENING
LEADER RESOURCE MANUAL



This project manual is a joint effort

of the

P.E.I. 4-H Council

and the

PEI Department of Agriculture

reprinted 2014

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CHECKLIST

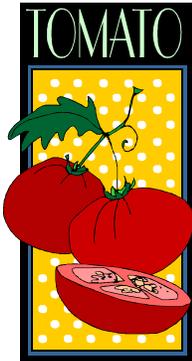
April



Meeting 1 - The Ground Rules

- Introduction to Project Requirements
- How to Plant Seeds Indoors
- Planting Chives
- (Optional) How Seeds Germinate
- For Next Meeting

April - May



Meeting II - Posting an Early Start

- More on Vegetables
- Classifying My Vegetables
- Starting My Tomatoes
- Poster
- (Optional) Soil Sampling
- For Next Meeting

May



Meeting III - Ready to Spring

- Choosing My Site
- Preparing the Plot
- My Garden Plan
- (Optional) Visit or Tour
- For Next Meeting

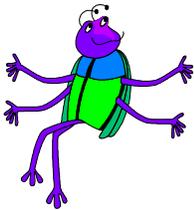
Late May - June



Meeting IV - Hoeing In

- How and When to Plant
- Planting
- My Garden Record
- Hardening & Transplanting Tomatoes
- Garden Tool Crossword
- For Next Meeting

July



Meeting V - Friends & Enemies

- Summer Care of Garden
- Identifying Weeds
- Companion Planting
- Garden Inspection
- Weed Collection
- The Next Meeting

August



Meeting VI - Ready or Not

- Report on Problems in Garden
- Harvesting Vegetables
- Storage Chart
- (Optional) Storing Onions
- Plan to Celebrate
- For Next Meeting

Late August -
September



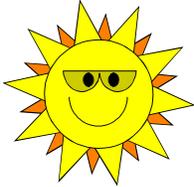
Meeting VII - Vegetables on View

- Our Celebration
- Exhibiting Vegetables
- Gardener's Puzzle
- (Optional) Veggie Puzzle
- (Optional) Judging Vegetables
- For Rural Youth Fair
- Community Project Report
- Agriculture Awareness Report
- Leader's Signature Upon Completion

Meeting 1

The Ground Rules

DATE: _____



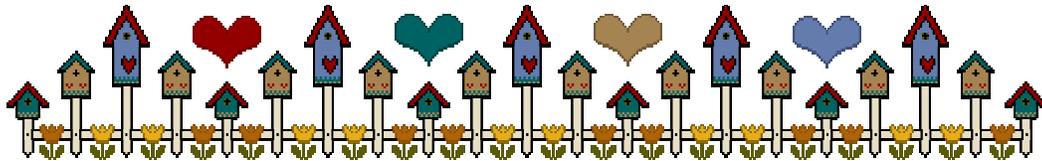
PLACE: _____

TIME: _____

For Roll Call:

Bring a small container suitable for a plant. Introduce yourself. Tell why you want to garden.

Why? _____



Introduction to Project

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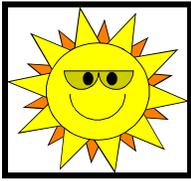
Welcome to the Green Thumb Gardening Project. This Resource Book is intended for a guide only to help you teach the project to your members. You may follow it exactly or choose a few activities that are of interest to you and your members. The important thing to remember is that the Achievement Day Requirements on the Member Guide MUST all be completed by the Achievement Day (which is held at the Rural Youth Fair in September).



Lesson Outline

This lesson introduces you to the 4-H Green Thumb Gardening Project. You will find out what is expected of you during the project and actually start a plant from seeds.

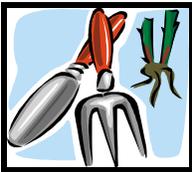
Each of the seven meetings has been divided into sections:



Meeting Record



The Lesson



Member, Group and/or Optional Activity



Before and/or For Next Meeting

Flip through your book to check this out.

Use the space below to record the names and telephone numbers of the members and leader(s) in this project for easy reference during the project year.

NAME

**TELEPHONE
NUMBER**

Project Requirements:

In this gardening project members are required to grow a garden which you will inspect during July or August, develop a pest control plan, a garden plan and a weed collection as well as growing their gardens.

- ➔ Note that this project differs from other projects in that it is not completed at your club's Achievement Day because your vegetables will not be ready until early September. It will be completed at Rural Youth Fair and ribbons and certificates will be mailed to members after the fair.

Marks for Your Project:

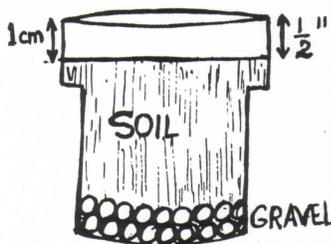
Leader's Inspection (see Meeting 5)	25
Pest Control Plan	15
Garden Plan	15
Weed Collection	15
3 Vegetables displayed at Rural Youth Fair	<u>30</u>
	100

* Pest Control Plan is to include 2 homemade recipes for pest control, to be typed and displayed with pictures in a folder. (Could be an experiment of old wives tales of pest control.)

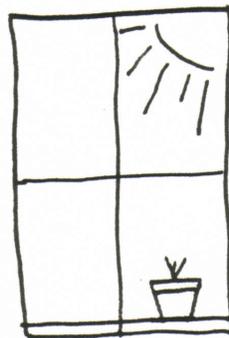
Exhibition Requirement

2 varieties of vegetables on one tray (except for Rural Youth Fair)

How to Plant your Seeds Indoors

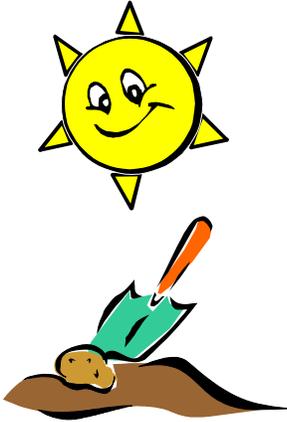


1. Choose a pot. Pots are either clay or plastic. Tin cans can be used if one to three drainage holes are punched in the bottom. A “too large” pot is as harmful as a “too small” one. Start seeds in a small pot and repot when necessary.
2. Mix the appropriate soil mixture or use prepared potting soil.
3. Place some gravel, stones or broken pot pieces over the drainage holes to prevent them from becoming packed with soil.
4. Put soil over the drainage materials then fill so the soil level is 1 cm below the top of the pot. Firm the soil.
5. Place the pot in a sink or deep saucer and water thoroughly.
6. Scatter the seeds over the surface evenly. Cover with soil to a depth twice the diameter of the seed. Moisten with a fine spray taking care not to disturb either the covering or the seeds.
7. After seeding, the pots are covered with a pane of glass or placed in a plastic bag to create a small damp air space over the seed. This will reduce evaporation. These pans should also be set in a shaded area. Once the seeds start to grow, the glass should be wedged up or the plastic bag partially opened to give ventilation. As soon as the growth starts, the shade and glass or plastic should be removed and the pot moved to a sunny window.



Plants Indoors:

Indoors or outdoors, plants need:



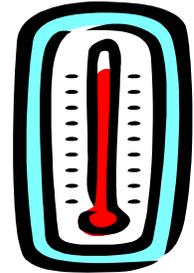
LIGHT - all plants require some light. Sunlight from a sunny window in your house is usually enough, although artificial light is sometimes used.

SOIL - a good potting soil for most plants contains two parts top soil (garden soil), one part sand and one part peat moss. It will be easier for you to use prepared potting soil from a store than to mix your own.

HEAT - indoor plants prefer a day temperature of between 20° - 22°C and night temperatures of 15°C,



WATER - how often and how much water you give depends on many factors. For example, violets need more water than cacti, plants in a humid room require less than those in a dry room and plants in clay pots require more water than those in tin or plastic pots.



Humidity is the measure of the amount of water in the air. In the home, air is usually drier than plants like. Sprinkling plants with a fine spray of water benefits the plant by raising the humidity around it.

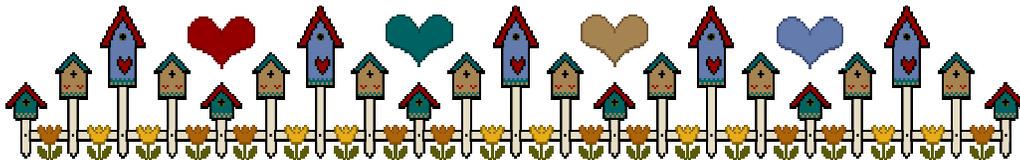
To tell if a plant needs water, push your finger into the soil. If it is dry beneath the top thin crust, it needs watering. Do not use cold water as it shocks the plants. You can water by pouring enough water on top of the soil to thoroughly wet the soil. You should do this in the sink so excess water can drain away. You can also set the pot in a tray of water until the water is absorbed up into the pot.

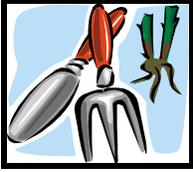


Lesson Review

True or False

1. Keep seeds damp for germination. T F
2. Your vegetables will be displayed at Achievement Day. T F
3. Indoor plants find our houses dry. T F
4. Meeting VII deals with exhibiting vegetables. T F
5. Cans with holes are suitable for plants. T F
6. Potting soil is 2 parts loam and 1 part sand. T F
7. 4-H Gardening is going to be fun! T F





GROUP ACTIVITY

Planting Chives

While it is still too cold outdoors to start your summer garden, you can start an indoor 'herb' called chives.

Many gardeners plant herbs in their garden for flavoring in foods.

You have probably heard of the herbs parsley, mint, summer savory and chives. Which ones have you tried?

Plant your chives according to package directions following the information in this chapter on starting seeds.

Your plant will grow large enough to use in about a month. Harvest by cutting off the tops with scissors when the plants are 4 - 5 inches high.

When the outdoor gardening season arrives, your chives will be ready to set outdoors. Select a sunny place somewhere near your door where they can be easily reached by the cook in your house.

Chives have a mild onion flavor. Use them in dishes as you would green onion or as a garnish on top of such things as potato salad, soups, casseroles.

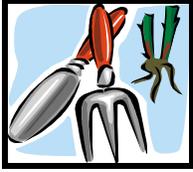
Good luck! And be sure to show your chives when your leader calls to do his/her inspection.

Date Planted: _____

Date seeds germinated: _____

Date plants reached 1 inch: _____

Date set outdoors: _____

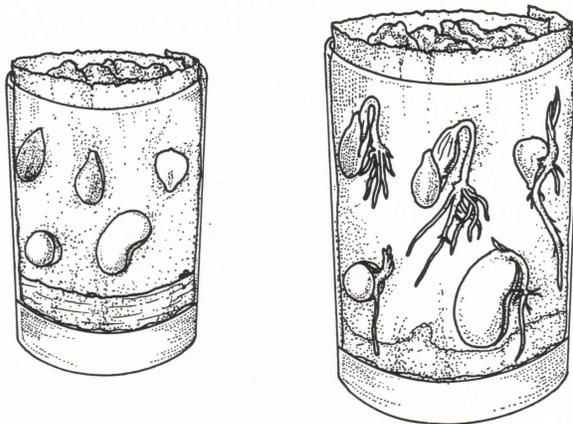


OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

How Seeds Germinate

Steps to follow:

1. Line the sides and bottom of a glass with a paper towel.
2. Add water to wet the towel and leave extra water on the bottom. Keep water in the bottom at all times.
3. Stuff the centre with more wet towels to keep the first towel firmly against the sides of the glass.
4. Slip two beans and two corn seeds between the glass and the first towel.
5. Look at the glass each day. Write down what you see about the seed coat coming off, how the corn and bean emerge, first leaves, development of the roots. Also note any other observations you have made.
6. No matter how the seeds are placed in the jar, the roots will grow downward and the shoots will grow upward. The shoots will be white until they begin to manufacture their own food; then they will turn green.





FOR NEXT MEETING

- ___ Take your chives home with care.
- ___ Read material for next meeting
- ___ Fill in Roll Call on chives in next lesson.

Next Meeting

Date: _____

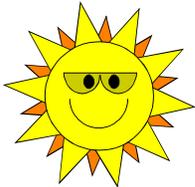
Time: _____

Place: _____

Meeting 2

Posting an Early Start

DATE: _____



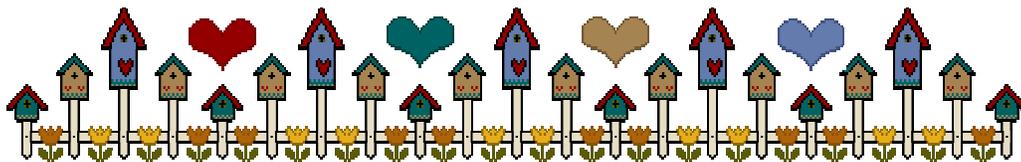
PLACE: _____

TIME: _____

F or Roll Call:

Report on the progress of your "chives".

**Introd
on**



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At this meeting, you will be learning more about plants, starting a poster and starting tomatoes indoors.

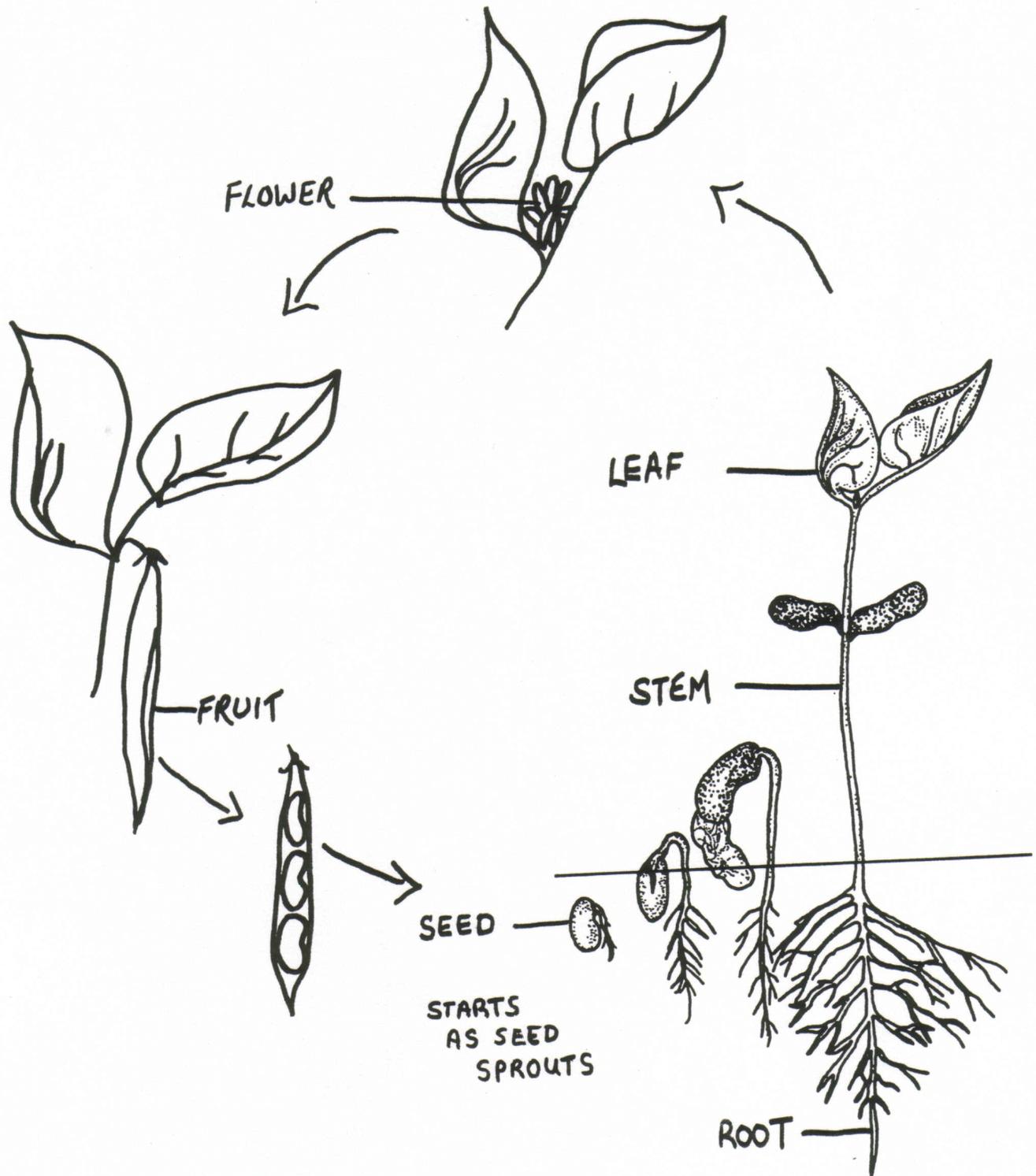


More on Vegetables

There are many different vegetables that you can grow in your garden. You must consider many factors when you are planning a vegetable garden.

Like the indoor garden, your outdoor garden must have good soil, adequate sunlight, good quality seeds, and good irrigation and light, and once the garden is planted, you must be on the look-out for disease, insects and weeds.

At this time you should take a look at the life cycle and parts of plants.



Classes of Plants



1. Vegetables and herbs are often classified as annuals, biennials or perennials.

Annuals complete their life cycle in one year. Eg. tomatoes, peas, beans, corn, cucumber, zucchini, squash, summer savory.

Biennials live for two years in a warm climate. Eg. beets, carrots, parsnips, radishes, turnips, parsley.

Perennials live for more than two years. Like many of the biennials above, many perennials do not survive cold PEI winters. Two perennial vegetables that do survive are rhubarb and asparagus. Your perennial herb, chives, will also survive our winters.

2. Vegetables may also be classified as warm or cool season crops.

Warm season crops need high temperatures in order to grow well. Some warm season vegetables are cucumbers, zucchini, pumpkins, snap beans, sweet corn and tomatoes.

Cool season crops are able to grow when temperatures are lower. They can be planted early in May so that a lot of their growth takes place during the cool spring weather. Eg. beets, carrots, lettuce, peas, onions, spinach.

3. A third way to classify vegetables is to divide them into groups according to the part of the vegetable which is used for food.

Tubers - eg. potato

Leaf Vegetable - eg. cabbage, lettuce, onions, spinach, swiss chard

Root Vegetables - eg. beet, carrot, parsnip, radish, turnip

Flower Vegetables - eg. broccoli, cauliflower

Seed and Fruit Vegetables - eg. cucumber, zucchini, beans, peas, sweet corn, tomato.

Classify the vegetables from the 4-H garden list. Space is left for any other vegetables you choose to grow.

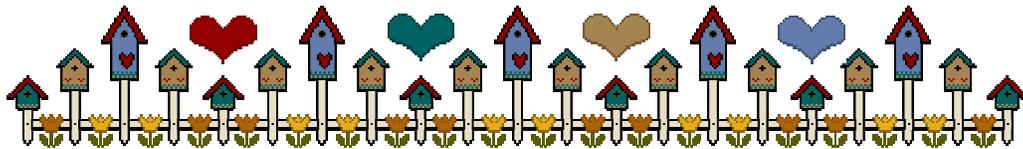
Vegetable	Annual Biennial Perennial	Warm Season or Cold Season	Tuber, Leaf, Root, Flower, Seed or Fruit
zucchini			
carrots			
beets			
tomatoes			
cucumbers			
onions			
corn			

Successful Gardening on PEI

It has been mentioned that our winters are cold. Many perennials and biennials have to be grown as annuals on PEI.

The growing season on PEI is short. The average dates on PEI that are frost-free are June 5 - September 25.

That means that care must be taken in selecting seeds and plants for PEI. Seeds and plants can be purchased at many outlets across the Island. Take great care if you order seeds from companies in different climates. Vesey's Seeds in York specialize in seeds suitable for our season.



GROUP ACTIVITY

Starting Your Tomatoes



To get a head start on the season, it is sometimes necessary to start vegetables indoors.

Ideally it is done under greenhouse conditions. There are many greenhouse nurseries on PEI. Can you name one near you?

One vegetable that must get a head start to reach maturity before frost in September is the tomato.

Your leader will probably have your group plant the tomato seeds as a group. He/she may care for them for you until they are ready for you to take home to plant outside.

Instructions

1. Secure a small box about 7.5 cm deep and fill with fine soil.
2. Make shallow trenches in the soil with a small stick.
3. Carefully plant the seed in these trenches and cover lightly in soil. Press the soil lightly with a piece of board, and water.
4. Place the box near a window when the seedlings emerge. Take care to keep them warm and watered.
5. Turn the box every day so that light reaches all sides.
6. When the plants are 5 cm high, transplant them into other boxes, placing the plants about 7.5 cm apart. Water about twice a week.
7. As the weather becomes warmer, carry the boxes into the sunlight during the day, being careful to bring them into the house during the night. This is called "hardening off". It accustoms the plants to being outside in the wind and rain.
8. After all danger of severe frost is over, they should be planted in the garden.



MEMBER'S ACTIVITY

Poster

This project requires that you complete a poster, see "Project Requirements".

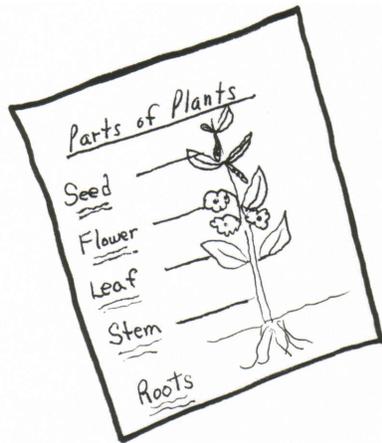
Create a poster displaying one of the subjects discussed in Meeting 1 or 2.

Topic might be

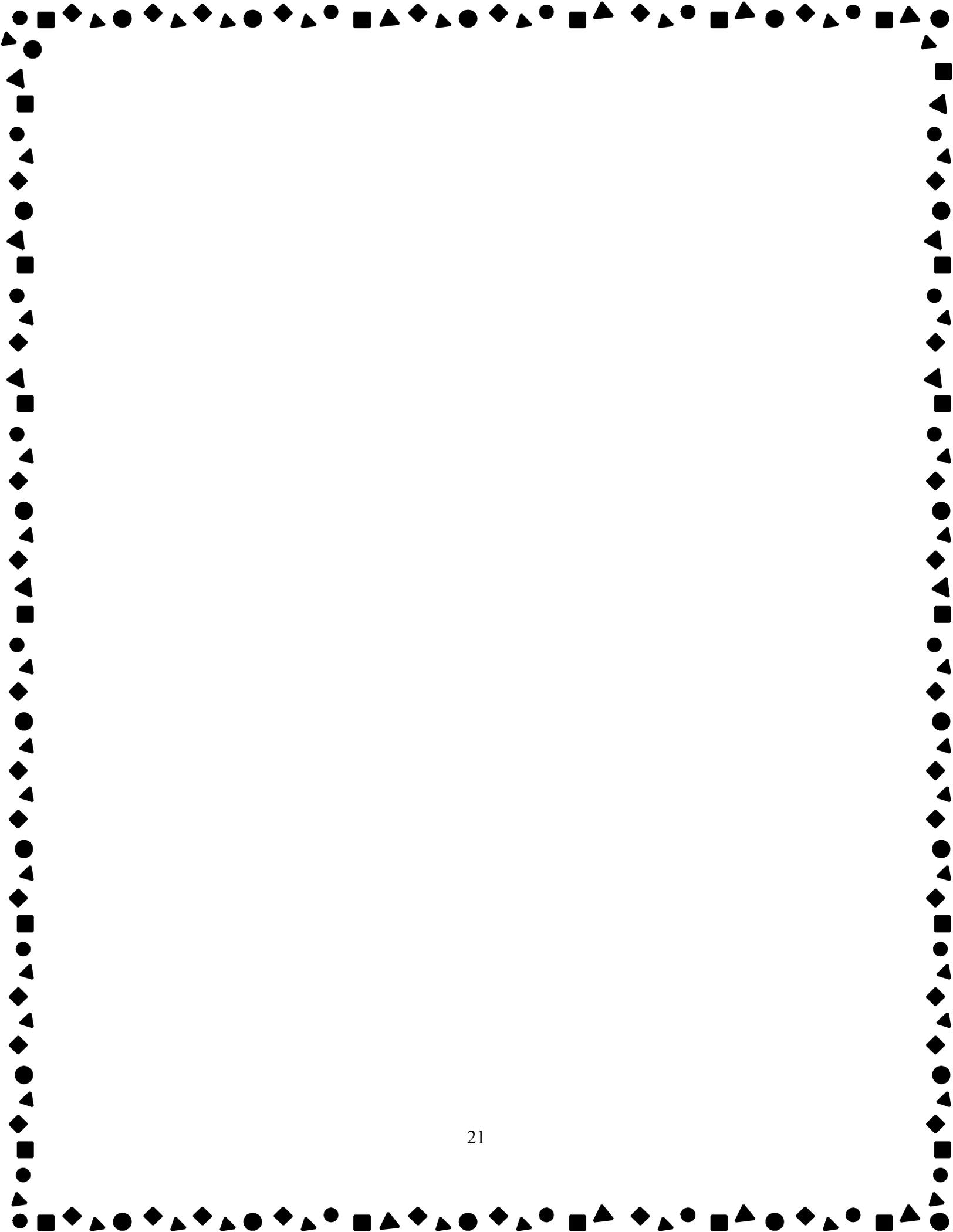
1. parts of a plant
2. life cycle of a plant
3. starting plants indoors
4. class of vegetables
5. topic of your choice from Meeting 1 or 2

Be sure to

- use "4-H Poster Book" as a guide
- use a whole sheet of bristol board
- use quality not quantity information
- use your imagination, drawings or pictures, and creativity
- write your name, club and age on back, not front



Sketch an idea for your poster on the next page.





OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

Soil Sampling

If you are not sure what condition your garden soil is in, you may want to take a soil sample.

Most Prince Edward Island soils are quite acid (sour). In such soils, plants have difficulty getting food. To sweeten the soil, we apply lime or ground limestone. This supplies calcium. A soil test will indicate exactly how much lime you should apply. However, 23 kg (50 lbs.) limestone per 93 sq. m. (1,000 sq. ft.) is the usual recommendation. Fall application is best but anytime before replanting will do.

A publication "The Why and How of Soil Testing" follows. Although it was written for larger scale "farmers" than you, the information will be the same for your small plot.

My Record

Date Samples Taken: _____

Date taken to soil lab: _____

Date information returned: _____

(Enclose that information sheet)

Agri-Fact

The Why and How of Soil Testing

Richard Veinot, Soil Chemist
PEI Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Aquaculture

The Need - Why Soil Test?



Today all costs of fertilizer materials are rising sharply. In addition, some fertilizers are in short supply. All farmers, therefore, must select their fertility program carefully. Soil testing is one of the best ways for farmers to assess the fertility of their land and decide upon how much and what type of fertilizer and limestone must be applied for maximum crop yield. Soil testing can help overcome such problems as:

- (1) Low yields due to lack of fertility,
- (2) Acid soils,
- (3) Using the wrong fertilizer,
- (4) Using more fertilizer than necessary for maximum yield.

The wise farmer will soil test his fields and do it regularly. The following is a guide to getting good soil test results.



1. When to Sample

Soil samples may be taken at any time but remember the following:

1. Time is often too short when sampling in the spring.
2. Fall sampling assures your results back long before planting time, and is the best.
3. Early fall sampling gives you results in time for fall liming.



2. Assemble the Necessary Tools

In taking a soil sample, care must be taken to get a uniform core of soil. The tools you will need are:

1. A clean pail - for mixing,
2. A soil probe, or
3. A shovel or spade.

Note that the soil probe is the best sampling tool, especially in sod fields.

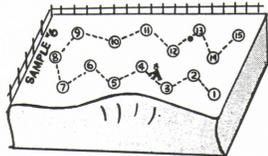


3. Size Up Your Fields

One sample should be taken from each field or area which appears uniform and has a similar cropping history.

Section to avoid and sample separately are:

1. Areas of high slope or excessive erosion
2. Large low or poorly drained areas
3. Areas of different cropping patterns
4. Areas having different lime, manure or fertilizer treatments



4. Take a Representative Sample

As there are slight differences within even uniform fields, take soil from 10 - 20 different places in the field. The depth to which the samples are taken is usually 6 inches (15 cm) or more if you are using deep tillage. Place this soil in a clean pail and mix thoroughly. Submit for analysis about ½ pint of soil.



5. Fill out the Information Sheet

In order to obtain a good fertilizer and lime recommendation, all information about the field history and cropping is necessary. The information questionnaire should be filled out completely and placed with the sample.



6. Package Carefully and Send for Testing

Samples may be brought or sent to:

PEI Soil & Feed Testing Laboratory
P.O. Box 1600
Research Centre, Charlottetown
C1A 7Z3

Samples may also be left at your nearest Access PEI Office.



7. Allow Time for Analysis

“Good food takes time to prepare”, so do good soil analyses. Expect to wait 7 - 14 days for results in the spring, perhaps longer in the fall. The soil laboratory has a lot of samples to process and the most up-to-date methods are used so this all takes time. Tests performed are pH, organic matter, phosphorus, potash, calcium and magnesium.



8. You Will Receive

If care has been taken in sampling and if information has been provided for the crops to be grown, the producer will receive fertilizer and limestone recommendations based on the most up-to-date research. Top yields can be expected with the minimum fertilizer investment.

Soil Testing is Provided

But there is a Charge

To all Producers on

Prince Edward Island

**For more details, soil boxes and
information, contact the Soil
Laboratory or your local Access PEI
location.**

BEFORE NEXT MEETING



___ Finish your poster and read the meeting material

AT NEXT MEETING

___ Show your poster for roll call

Next Meeting

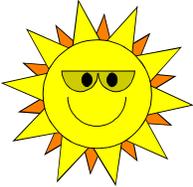
Date: _____

Time: _____

Place: _____

Meeting 3

Ready to Spring



DATE: _____

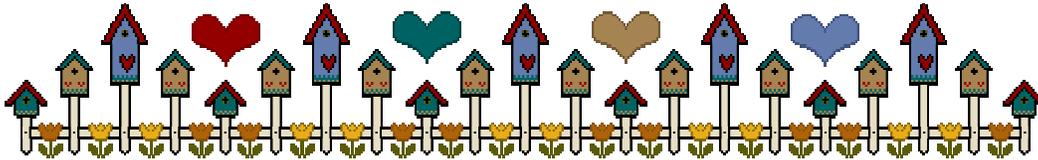
PLACE: _____

TIME: _____

For Roll Call:

Display your finished poster.

Title of poster _____



INTRODUCING THIS LESSON



You will plan your garden, choose your site, and prepare to plant.

Choosing Your Site

Plants have basic requirements for good growth. As you know these requirements include light, moisture and nutrients. For best results, your garden should be located on level land with good drainage, loam soil and at least six hours of full sun per day.



Which of the following characteristics does your garden site possess?

- Soil is loose, fertile and well drained.
- Soil is free from rubbish and stones.
- Site is close to the house so you are more likely to work in it when you have a few minutes.
- Site is level ... or ... site is on a slight slope but the rows will go across the slope.
- Site is not located on a low spot where early fall and late spring frosts tend to occur.
- Site receives at least six hours of sunlight during the day and is not shaded by nearby buildings, fences, trees and shrubbery.
- Leaves and animal manures have been worked into the soil the preceding fall.
- Vegetables will not be competing with trees and shrubs for nutrients and water.
- Site is sheltered from wind.

If your garden has all of these features, you are off to a very good start. If it is missing some, you should think about finding another site or improving this one as much as possible.

Preparing Your Garden Plot

Before you plant any seeds the seed bed must be well worked. Proper care must be given to the soil if it is to produce a good garden. A garden should be dug to a depth of 19 to 20 cm (7 to 8 inches) in order to:

1. loosen the soil
2. turn under manure, old crops and other materials
3. let air and moisture pass through soil

All gardens, if possible, should be worked in the fall. The frost then helps to break up the lumps and put the soil in good condition.

In the spring never work the soil when it is too wet; this causes lumpy, hard, compact soil. The soil should be dry enough to pass this test; squeeze a handful of soil; if the clump crumbles easily it is dry enough; if it sticks in a lump it is too wet.

After your garden is dug it should be raked smooth and cleared of stumps and weeds to make a good seedbed. This step also preserves moisture in the soil.

Improving the Soil

If manure is to be applied this should be done before ploughing so it can be worked in completely. Limestone, to sweeten the soil, can also be applied at the same time. Fertilizer is applied after ploughing and worked into the surface, or it may be partially banded under each row. It is usually easier to apply fertilizer broadcast before the final working.

The amount of fertilizer and lime applied should be governed by the results of a soil test. However, the following rates may be used as a general guide.



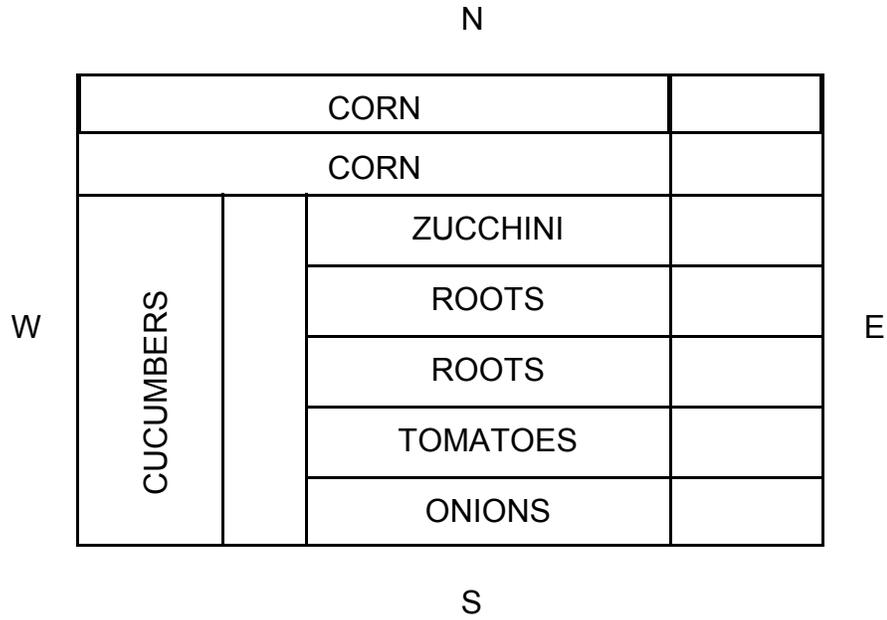
	per .404 Ha (one acre)	per 93 sq. m (1000 sq. ft.)	per 30.5 m (100 ft. row)
Manure	9,070 kgm (10 tons)	227 kgm (1/4 ton)	45.4 kgm (100 lbs.)
Limestone	907 kgm (1 ton)	22.7 kgm (50 lbs.)	4.5 kgm (10 lbs.)
Fertilizer	454 kgm (½ ton)	11.3 kgm (25 lbs.)	2.3 kgm (5 lbs.)

Arranging my Vegetables

1. Run the rows across the slope if your garden location is not level; this prevents water run-off and soil erosion.
2. Place tall plants at the north end of the garden so they will not shelter other plants.
3. Plant vine crops in centre of garden with any early vegetable crops planted on either side; these will be harvested by the time the vine crops spread, or plant vine crops to one side where they will not climb over others.
4. Plant any perennial vegetables to one side of the garden so they will not interfere with cultivation of the rest of the garden.
5. Refer to “Companion Planting” to help you plan “friendly” plants side by side.
6. For best pollination plant corn in 2 - 3 short rows rather than one long row.

SAMPLE PLAN

This is a good garden plan. Why?



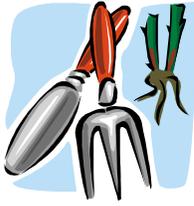
MY PLAN

With your leader's help, plot your garden on scrap paper.

Include N-S-E-W directions, vegetables names.

Sketch your finished garden plan on the next page.

MY GARDEN PLAN



OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

Visit or Tour

Visit or tour a seed company or nursery on your own or with your 4-H group. Record it here.

PLACE VISITED: _____

TYPE OF BUSINESS: _____

WHAT DID YOU SEE: _____

What was particularly interesting? Why?



BEFORE NEXT MEETING



___ Prepare your plot for planting

___ Read through next meeting material

FOR NEXT MEETING

___ Finish your garden plan for roll call

Next Meeting

Date: _____

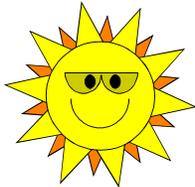
Time: _____

Place: _____

Meeting 4 ...

Hoing In

DATE: _____

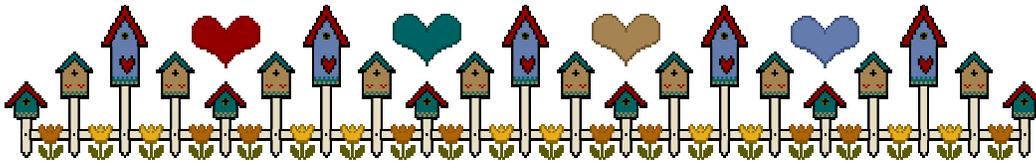


PLACE: _____

TIME: _____

For Roll Call:

Present finished garden plan.



I N T

R O D

UCING THIS LESSON



This is the lesson that sends you out to your garden to plant, transplant and record your seeding activities.



How and When to Plant Your Garden

Planning time begins in mid-May in Prince Edward Island depending on the weather that year and the type of vegetable you are planting.

You will need the following items to plant your garden: your plan, seeds or transplants, a hoe, rake, stakes, hammer, string and a measuring stick.

Time to Plant

Some kinds of vegetables should be planted as soon as the ground can be worked; others cannot be planted until warmer weather raises the temperature of the soil.



For instance, spinach, radish, lettuce, and peas develop best when the season is cool and should be sown as early as possible. Carrots should be planted a bit later.

Onions require a long growing season and must also be sown fairly early.

Beans, squash, cucumber, pumpkin and corn all need warm soil conditions to germinate and grow. They also cannot tolerate frost so they must be planted after the ground warms and danger of frost is past. Tomato plants

need warmth as well.

Carrots, beets, peas, beans, lettuce, and radish develop quite quickly and several plantings may be made during the summer (until July) to ensure a steady supply for the dinner table.

Refer to the table on the following page for amounts of seed you will need, planting dates, etc.

Vegetable	Seed req'd for 100 ft. row	Reasonable yield per 100 ft.	Field seeding or Transplanting	Final Spacing	Time to Harvest (days)	Remarks
Beets	1 oz.	100 lbs.	from time soil can be worked until late June	1 - 3 inches	60 -80	use thinned plants for greens
Carrots	½ oz.	100 lbs.	May - June	1 - 3 inches	80- 100	store where not too dry
Corn Main season	1/4 lb.	100 ears	after danger of frost to mid-June	6 - 10 inches	75 - 85	loses flavour rapidly after harvest
Cucumber (slicing)	½ oz.	600 fruits	after danger of frost to late June	8 - 12 inches	55 - 75	requires full sun, warm location
Onion (sets)	2 lb.	100 lbs.	as early as possible	2 - 4 inches	50 - 70	harvest when tops start to fall over, before wet fall
Zucchini	1 oz.	600 fruits	after danger of frost	12 - 18 inches	50 - 70	eat when small and tender
Tomatoes	50 plants	300 lbs.	transplant out after danger of frost	18 - 30 inches	70 - 80	requires warm sunny location. Can be picked green, ripened 2 - 6 weeks at 55° F.

Planting the Seed

Seed is dropped in the bottom of each row by hand and is usually sown slightly thicker than plants are required, especially with small seed. This ensures a good stand, and enough plants for the removal of weaker ones by thinning. Sowing seed too thickly wastes seed and makes thinning more difficult. A rule often used by gardeners is that small seed be sown 3 seeds per 2.5 cm (inch), medium seed 2 per 2.5 cm (inch), and large seed every 7.5 cm (3 inches).



Another general rule is that seed should be covered to a depth of four times the width of the seed. Seed furrows must be deep enough to allow the seed contact with moist soil. The moisture is necessary for germination.

Cover each furrow with the required depth of earth and press firmly with the back of the hoe or rake. This prevents too much moisture loss from the soil.

You will probably be anxious for your garden to come up. Some seedlings like radish emerge quite quickly while others are slower to appear.

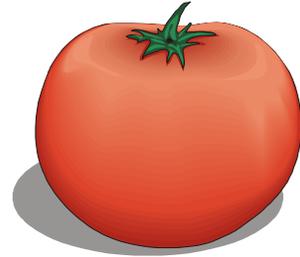
You can keep busy by removing weeds from between rows. These weeds will compete with your vegetable seedlings for food, water and light.



It is a good idea to keep a written chart of the vegetables you plant, dates planted and harvested. This is especially important if you plan to make several plantings of a fast maturing vegetable during the growing season. Fill in the following page for your garden as you make your plantings. It will be a good reference when you are planning your garden next year.

Hardening Your Tomatoes

By now your leader will be “hardening” your tomatoes. Find out why she/he does it and record the reason here.



Transplanting Your Tomatoes

With luck and good management your leader should have three or more healthy tomato plants for you.

Set them out in your garden when there is no risk of frost.

Check lesson 2, page 18, for usual date on PEI. Record here _____

When does your leader usually set out her/his tomatoes? Record here _____

Tomatoes can be set out earlier if planted in a sheltered area or otherwise protected. For emergency frost protection, cover plants with newspaper or plastic sheets, cardboard boxes, or baskets at night and remove during the day. However, little is gained by planting too early because air and soil temperatures are generally too cold for good growth.

Dry soils and hot weather are unfavourable for planting tomatoes. Do not let plants wilt during the process. If weather is hot or sunny, it is best to plant in late afternoon or evening.