

HOME GARDEN FOR THE COASTAL PLAIN OF GEORGIA

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Size of Garden: For a family of five, about 1/4 acre should be planted to the close growing crops such as beans, beets, cabbage, carrots, corn, mustard, okra, onions, peas, pepper, tomatoes, turnips, etc. Crops requiring more space, such as sweetpotatoes, cantaloupes, and watermelons may be planted in the field.

Location: Locate garden near house, if suitable soil is available, and protect it with a fence. Fall gardens should be planted in moist areas if irrigation is not available.

Soil: Fertile soil is highly essential in the production of vegetables, therefore, use the best soil available.

Fertilizer and Manure: Compost, manure, and decomposed vegetative matter should be used liberally to supplement commercial fertilizer. Some of the best garden fertilizers are 4-8-6, 4-8-8, and 6-8-8. The rate of application should vary with the different crops, from 1000 to 2000 pounds per acre. Also better quality and higher yields will be obtained if commercial fertilizer is supplemented with 10 to 20 tons per acre of compost or manure. In applying these rates to small areas, 10 to 20 pounds of commercial fertilizer and 100 to 200 pounds of compost or manure will be required for 100 feet of row. Heavy applications of commercial fertilizer immediately before planting may injure germination. It, therefore, is considered better practice to use not more than 500 pounds per acre in the drill, or 1500 pounds broadcast before planting. The remaining part should be used as a side dressing early in the growing season. All preplanting applications of commercial fertilizer, manure, or compost should be applied at least one week in advance of the planting season and mixed thoroughly with the soil.

Time to Plant: Dates suggested in the attached planting table are applicable for the area lying in the latitude of Tifton. Plantings in the extreme northern part of the Coastal Plain should be delayed 8 to 10 days, while those in the extreme southern portion should be advanced about 10 days.

Successive Plantings: To have fresh vegetables throughout the year, it is necessary to make successive plantings of many of the crops as suggested in the planting table.

Varieties: In the event seeds of varieties recommended in the accompanying planting table are not available, use what you or your County Agent or seedsman considers the best substitute, but use substitutions only when necessary.

Rotation of Crops: Rotation of crops is beneficial in reducing loss from insects and diseases. If enough area is available, it is advisable to plant in the same place only one year out of every three. During intervening years, crops such as crotalaria and velvetbeans, which improve the soil and reduce nematode population, should be used. At least, crops should be rotated within the garden so that they are not planted repeatedly in the same row. In small gardens soil fumigation may be substituted for crop rotation.

Preparation of Soil: Seed will germinate better and fertilizer will be more effective, in well prepared soil. Therefore, to obtain the greatest amount of good from both, thorough preparation of the soil is essential.

Hotbeds: Tomatoes, pepper, sweetpotatoes, and eggplants should be started in hotbeds about January 15 and transplanted to the field in mid-March, in the Tifton area.

Early Fall Crops: Broccoli, beets, cabbage, and onions may be started in shaded beds in late July or early August, for transplanting to the field in late August or early September. To germinate seed successfully, it is necessary to water the beds at frequent intervals.

Insect and Disease Control: Be prepared to control insects and diseases. Contact County Agent, Experiment Station, or College of Agriculture, if help is needed.

