

Skill in Seed Sowing Essential to Success of Gardening

When sowing seeds directly in the garden, the amateur should keep in mind two points—how deep to sow, and how far apart. Modern practice favors shallow sowing, the depth being determined by the size in most cases. Small seeds are barely covered, and larger seeds placed at a depth about four times their diameter.

How far apart is not so easy to determine. If sown too thickly, the hazards of garden life may cause vacant spaces to be left in the row. If sown too thickly, there will be extra work thinning out plants, so those which remain have room to develop.

Larger seeds, like peas and beans can be accurately spaced. Dwarf peas one inch apart will develop sturdy plants without thinning, and if some seeds fail to grow they will not be missed. Bush beans usually are allowed to grow four inches apart in the row. To avoid vacant spaces sow beans in pairs, spaced four inches apart. Seldom will both seeds in a pair fail to grow. If both grow one can easily be pulled up, or let both develop since twin plants will do as well as singles.

Thinned Later

Beet seed and swiss chard are large enough to be spaced precisely, and may be planted an inch or two apart, and thinned out. Every beet seed will produce a group of plants. If you thin them just as the root is beginning to take its globular form, the tops and tiny roots cooked together will make a delicious dish.

Avoid sowing any seeds so thickly that they touch each other. Their roots will entangle, and it will be difficult to thin them properly. It may help to mix small seeds with dry sand, before you begin to sow, using two or three

times as much sand as seeds. This spreads the seed out better.

Twice as Much

If seed is of sub-standard germination, or known to be old, sow twice as much. Carrot seedlings are feeble, and often have difficulty breaking through the soil if it is at all inclined to crust. Use twice as much carrot seed if you

have doubts about your soil being porous enough.

The surest way to sow small seeds is to take a few in the hand, and let them fall through the fingers into the drill which has been prepared. Get close to the ground, and with a little practice you can quickly acquire control so that the seeds will be evenly distributed,

each sufficiently distant from the next to prevent entanglement.

Keep the seeds in line as well as you can. It helps to let the garden line which was used in making the drill remain in place until the deeds have been dropped.



There will be few vacant spaces in row, if large seeds are sown in pairs. Here are white beans being planted in pairs about four inches apart. If the beans are the pole variety, they need to be planted a bit farther apart.



These bean seedlings have won the first battle, by struggling through the soil to reach the sunlight. A loose one-way top soil greatly helps in getting the garden off to a good start.

Remember Pretty Fall Foliage Now

Many home owners like to plant trees that will provide rich green foliage in summer and glorious reds, oranges and yellows in the fall. Evergreen trees of course will provide beautiful green color all year from light green during the height of their growing season to deep green all winter.

In the foliage of deciduous trees, which shed their leaves, there are two groups of coloring pigments. These are the carotins, which provide yellow color; and the anthocyanins, which cause leaves to turn red. Soil fertility and the amount of water available also have some effect on foliage color.

Trees having gray foliage include the Russian olive, and some of the poplars, willows and the little-leaved linden. They turn yellow in the fall.

Trees with red fall color include many of the maples, hornbeams, dogwoods, oaks, sassafras, plums, and viburnums.

Those with brilliant yellow fall color include some of the maples, birch, redbud, beech, ginkgo, magnolia and ash.

Consult with your local arborist or tree expert for trees to give you the colors you want. A mixture of evergreen, red and yellow provide strikingly lovely effects in the fall months, providing you have the room for a number of trees.

Don't Crowd Turnips If Quality Wanted

Turnips do not grow well if crowded. If the young plants are pulled up so they stand 4 inches apart in the row, in a remarkable short time they will be large enough to use.

Beets are more easily handled than turnips when they are a little larger, and one should not fail to try a dish of beet tops with the tiny garden menu. The beets which are left in the ground should be spaced 2 inches apart.

Only about 10 per cent of the land area of China can be used for farms.

Peas are best if thinning is not needed. Therefore sow peas about one inch apart. Few vacancies will appear in the row if good quality seed is used and a layer of loose soil placed on the surface, after the garden loam has been firmed around the seeds.

Awards Total \$50,000 for 4-H Projects

Awards totalling \$50,000 are being offered 4-H Club members in the 1955 National 4-H Garden, Canning and Frozen Foods programs.

Of the half-million 4-H'ers who participate in the three projects each year, those with outstanding records will be honored on county, state, sectional and national levels.

Medals will be offered to four outstanding garden members in each county. State-winners in the program will receive trips to the National 4-H Congress in Chicago, Nov. 27-Dec. 1. The eight top-ranking 4-H'ers among the state winners will get \$300 college scholarships each. For the 10th consecutive year, the tractor division of Allis-Chalmers is providing the awards for garden winners.

Similar county and state awards are available to canning winners, with the Kerr Glass Mfg. Corp. the donor.

In the frozen foods program, medals are provided for two county winners by International Harvester. State winners will receive \$50 U. S. Savings Bonds. All-expense trips to the National 4-H Club Congress will be given eight sectional winners, representing all parts of the country, and six of the trip winners will be presented \$300 scholarships as national winners.

PICK SQUASH OFTEN

Summer squash bushes bear more if the squash is picked when very young. Squash is tastier, too, when not over 6 inches long.

Feed Lawn Early For Best Results

Feeding the lawn should be one of your first garden tasks in the early spring. When frost comes out of the ground, there is a stage in the thawing process that causes the soil to be perforated as it shrinks.

A good plant food applied to this "honey-combed" soil, is carried down to the grass roots more quickly than later-in-the-spring feeding.

Perennial borders, trees and shrubs also respond to this treatment in early spring.

Consult your nurseryman or garden supply dealer for the best in plant foods.

Malathion Effective on Garden Pests

Continued experimentation with malathion, the multi-purpose insecticide, has uncovered new uses for this product around the garden. Recent tests have shown malathion effective against insects which attack lettuce, onion, spinach, strawberries and peaches in addition to the many other pests against which this product was originally reported to be effective. It is effective against more than 75 kinds of insects found on more than 40 different types of plants.

Described by the U. S. Department of Agriculture as "one of the safest insecticides to handle," malathion is also a highly effective fly killer—even against species that have become resistant to other chemicals such as DDT.

An increasing number of insecticide formulators are using malathion as the major ingredient. These ready-to-use products are now available in garden supply and hardware stores under various brand names.

Space Seeds Accurately

Small garden seed can rarely be sown so sparsely that thinning out excess plants can be avoided in the home vegetable garden. Large seed can be spaced accurately, but with small ones it is necessary to sow more than there is room to mature, and when they come up many must be sacrificed so that the others may have room to develop.

The reason for this is the ever-present risk in gardening. The moulds which destroy seeds in the ground, or the seedlings just emerging, will always take their toll. Other mishaps may occur to plants as they grow larger, so it is always well to have a few spares growing. The amateur likes a row to be filled out with no vacant spaces, and should be willing to devote extra labor to insuring this, by doing his thinning gradually.

Divide primroses and plant them in semi-shade as soon as they have finished blooming. Let sweet williams go to seed, and let the seeds fall on the ground to renew the planting. Sweet williams are biennial and this is the easy method to keep them coming along.

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