

Difference between good and better

Garden needs fertilizer

Whether you're starting a vegetable garden for the first time, or you're an old hand at gardening, your enjoyment of freshly-harvested vegetables later will depend greatly on taking care of soil fertility before planting.

Many gardeners make certain that some fertilizer is added to the soil at time of fall plowing or mulching. Others take care of fertilization at one time—just before planting or transplanting—in the spring.

In either case, correct soil fertility is a must if you are to get the vegetable yield and quality you desire.

THE BEST guide to the kinds and amounts of commercial fertilizer you need is a soil test. Check with your county extension agent, or garden center, for information and the location of the nearest soil testing facilities.

In general the leafy crops—spinach, kale, cabbage, lettuce—often require more nitrogen fertilizer than other garden crops.

As a rule, the tuber and root crops—potatoes, sweet potatoes, beets, carrots, turnips and parsnips—need a higher percentage of potash in the fertilizer mixture.

THE AMOUNT of fertilizer to use varies with the crop. For in-

stance, tomatoes and beans, while responding well to fertilization, normally require moderate amounts. Onions, celery, lettuce, potatoes and the root crops, however, respond profitably to large amounts of fertilizer.

Roots of most garden crops spread to considerable dis-

tances, therefore an even soil distribution of fertilizers is recommended if applied at garden plowing time.

If fertilizer is scattered near the row at planting, place at least two to three inches to the side of the row and at about the same level as seed or seedling roots.

Home-grown herbs

Herbs can be treated like any other household plant except with herbs you get to taste what you grow. As with other plants, watering will vary with condition of the soil and size of the plant.

They will need at least five hours of good, strong light a day. Naturally, artificial lighting can be used to supplement sunlight in the home.

Be careful about placing them too close to open windows or air conditioners. They are extremely sensitive to sudden changes in temperature. Keep the herbs pinched back to insure a full growth. If you don't do this, they will become long and leggy.

Save your cuttings. After washing them to remove all dust, hand them to dry in the sun. You can do this easiest by using a net bag which allows the air

to circulate around them. Since some herbs take several weeks to dry, always use the "crumble" test to be sure. Sufficiently dried herbs will crumble easily when you rub them through your fingers.

After they have dried store them in jars to use as seasoning when you cook.

Bluegrass builds strong sod

For a really stout turf, bluegrass must be included in lawnseed mixtures. Bluegrass defers to no other lawngrass when it comes to weaving a strong sod by underground rhizomes.



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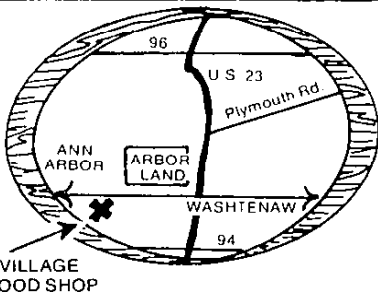
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