

2009

Program of Excellence

Hancock County

Victory Garden Templates

Every garden is different depending on the limitations of space, adequacy of available growing conditions and the time, resources and preferences of the gardener.

The garden templates or models offered below should serve as a place to begin for the new gardener in estimating the space and the plants etc needed to provide for the needs that they how to address. Gardeners are encouraged to select the one that best fits their needs and expand the garden as the need and experience grow. Please feel free to modify the suggested plant materials depending on the tastes and preferences of your family with the limitation of available space in mind.

Important note...

Starting with too large of a garden is very easy to do and can become little more than a source of frustration and a haven for weeds, insects and disease.

Start small...enjoy and celebrate your gardening success. As your experience in gardening and in how to incorporate the bounty of your harvest into your family's diet grow...plan for and grow the scale of your garden!

Option #1- Table Top Salad Bowl Garden- Container garden

This garden will provide an entry level gardening experience for those who want to start very small or who may not have access to a tillable plot of land. This is a great starting place for young families with children or senior citizens who will confine their gardening efforts to patios or other limited spaces.

Consider a container that is 5 gallons in size or larger with at least 6 inches of depth.

Note: Multiple plantings of greens can be made and harvested from around the tomato plant.

Vegetables- 1

Tomato-Tom Thumb

Option #2- Culinary Herb Garden- 2'x4'

This garden is for those with limited space and /or with a desire to add zest and flavor to their meals that they prepare for their family table. Herbs can add interest to the landscape and to meals and can be a great way to introduce children to gardening. Seniors or those with diminished eye sight can find that herbs appeal to the sense of smell and touch.

Herbs- 1 of each

Basil, chives, thyme, dill, marjoram, rosemary, savory, cilantro, parsley

Option #3- Salad Bowl Garden-4'x4'

This garden option is for those who may have limited time, space and/ or physical abilities but still want the satisfaction of supplementing their diet in season with the very freshest of salad ingredients possible for their table.

Tomato-1(Staked or Caged)

Cherry- Sweet 100...Sweet Million, Grape, Roma, Rutgers

Greens- 1 ounce...*multiple plantings*

Spring/fall

- Mesclum mix
or
- Spinach
- Lettuce

Summer-

- Swiss chard
- Malabar spinach
- Lettuce-Heat tolerant varieties
-

Bell Pepper-1...*Your choice of color.*

Cucumber- Trellised...*cover with Spun bond fabric until bloom...*

Disease resistant variety

Radish- *multiple plantings*

Variety of your choice

Onions-

Bunching/green

Option #4- Hoosier Summer Fresh Garden

This garden option will help to supplement the fresh produce for the family table during the growing season. Every effort should be made to plant successional plantings and to take advantage of the changing growing conditions as the season changes. Staking and trellising are important to save space, reduce disease and improve crop quality.

Note: The gardens below are for the gardener with a little garden experience "under their belt".

They will provide a good opportunity for a family to increase their knowledge of how to integrate a number of vegetable in a garden plot and into their diet for fresh use. This garden will require some labor at specific peak times of planting and harvest but nothing that a couple of adults with or without children could readily accomplish with some accommodation in their busy schedules...evenings/weekends.

a. Family of 2- 4'x8'

This garden will supplement the diets of 2 adults with fresh produce during the growing season.

- 1. Tomato-staked and /or caged**
- 2. Pepper**
- 3. Eggplant**
- 4. Beans-**
Bush or pole ...pole beans save space but should be planted on the north end of the garden plot
- 5. Cucumber-1**
- 6. Broccoli-3**
- 7. Zucchini -1**
- 8. Lettuce**
- 9. Onions**
- 10. Radish**

b. Family of 4- 8'x8'

This garden will supplement the diets of 4 adults with fresh produce during the growing season.

Double all of the above selections. *Allow for adequate space between beds.*

Option #5- Hoosier Fresh/Preserved Garden

Caution: These gardens (below) will take some time to plan, maintain and harvest properly. They will deliver their peak of produce during the season of the 4-H fair, traditional vacations, Band camp and the back to school rush...please plan and time your availability and need for produce appropriately. These provide a more "advanced" gardening experience that will introduce you to the full spectrum of gardening opportunities and responsibilities and allow your family to enjoy the bounty of your harvest even beyond the limitations of the growing season

a. Family of 2- 8'x8'

This garden will supplement the diets of 2 adults with fresh produce during the growing season and will provide some opportunity to preserve some produce for the fall and winter months through canning, freezing, drying or cool storage.

Every effort should be made to time harvests with available time to preserve or place in storage.

Harvesting should be timed for highest storage quality.

Use care to select varieties that store well and that your family will use.

1. **Tomato**
2. **Pepper**
3. **Eggplant**-*may substitute for similar number of peppers or 2 for 1 for tomatoes*
4. **Beans**-
Bush or pole ...pole beans save space but should be planted on the north end of the garden plot
5. **Cucumber**
6. **Broccoli**
7. **Zucchini**
8. **Onions**
9. **Lettuce**
10. **Radish**

b. Family of 4- 8'x16'

This garden will supplement the diets of 4 adults with fresh produce during the growing season and will provide some opportunity to preserve some produce for the fall and winter months through canning, freezing, drying or cool storage.

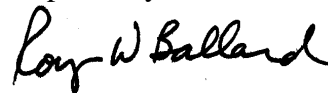
Every effort should be made to time harvests with available time to preserve or place in storage.

Harvesting should be timed for highest storage quality.

Use care to select varieties that store well and that your family will use and familiarize yourself with good food preservation skills and tools well in advance of harvest.

Double selections 1-8 above

Respectfully submitted:



Roy W. Ballard
Purdue CES Educator
Hancock County Office