

Diary of a War Garden

Feb. 1. Being certain that it is cheaper to raise your own vegetables than to buy them, I decide to make a garden.

Feb. 3. Go up town and buy one spade, two hoes, rake, fifty feet of hose, a trowel and various small gardening implements. Cost, \$9.75.

Feb. 4. Commence to dig off the weeds in back yard and get the soil in shape. Work at this forty minutes and decide to be scientific in my gardening so hire a man for one day. Wages, \$3.00.

Feb. 5, 6, 7. Raining off and on. Read *Life of Luther Burbank*.

Feb. 10. Send for seed catalogues. Read Green's "Short History of Agriculture."

Feb. 13. Soil in fine shape; go up-town to buy seed. Purchase packets of Polar Beans, French Carrots, Siamese Cucumber, Squash, Cantelope, Onion Sets, Peas, Pink Spinnach and Lettuce. Also buy "The Gardener's Guide." Total, \$1.85.

Feb. 14. Read Government Bulletins on fertilizers and decide to enrich my soil. Buy fifty cents' worth of Frizbee's Fish Fertilizer. Coming home on the car I notice that the other passengers regard me with hostility and move outside.

Feb. 15. Dig fertilizer into soil. Notice my neighbor Jenkins is also making a garden. Says he isn't going to fertilize his soil. Bet he doesn't have much of a garden.

Feb. 16. Get up early and sow lettuce seed and others that should now go in.

Feb. 17-19. Read "Care and Culture of Coconuts." Very helpful.

Mar. 1. Dog and cat fight on my lettuce patch. Am very much upset; buy a shotgun.

Mar. 3. Great rejoicing! Unmistakable seed leaves in lettuce patch; call Jenkins over to show him what scientific gardening can accomplish. He says they are only weeds, and high words follow. Am convinced the poor fellow is an ass.

May 3. Purchase two dozen spineless tomato plants, six artichoke plants, two dozen each of cabbage, cauliflower, and pepper plants, also half a pound of garlic bulbs. Cost, \$2.45.

Mar. 10. The garden is doing splendidly, there are seed leaves everywhere. Read "Germination and Cross Polonization of the Edible Oyster Plant." A valuable work, though not very exhilarating.

Mar. 15. Have a horrible suspicion that perhaps Jenkins may be right as I find similar plants to those in the lettuce patch coming up all over the walks.

Mar. 16. I find on reading directions on back of lettuce packet that seed are to be planted three-quarters of an inch deep. Had assumed they were to be planted like potatoes, about three inches deep. Decide to replant the garden. Buy more seed. \$1.15.

Mar. 17. Buy more fertilizer. Jenkins' lettuce up about two inches; it looks very feeble; hope the forst nips it.

Mar. 21. My tomatoes are getting well established. Have pruned off side limbs, which gives them a graceful appearance. The artichokes have wilted and look like wet feather dusters; this is quite natural, however.