

Chapter 2

13

What is needed to plant a garden?

Do you want to plant a garden?

Yes.

Then let's see how to plant one.



Enthusiasm and willingness are the most important things, and you will also need other elements.

In order to plant a garden you need:

- 1- Garden plan.
- 2- Accessible land.
- 3- Some tools



... And the knowledge that is in this manual!

1- What is a garden plan?

In order to make a garden plan, you will have to answer the following questions:

Which are the vegetables that grow best in the area?
Which is the sowing and harvest time of each one?



If there are any doubts, ask the local technician.

Which are the vegetables that you would like to plant?



You will find a lot of help in this Manual.

How much do you want to produce of each vegetable?
Only enough for family use?
Enough to sell?



There is information at the end of this manual on how much each kind of vegetable produces in 10 m. furrows so you will be able to calculate how much land is needed for each vegetable.

... As you already know, not all vegetables grow in the same season.

It is necessary to know the local climate. If winters are cold, when does the first frost fall in the autumn and the last frost fall in the spring? Talk with your neighbors.

Write the dates here

First frost in the autumn _____

Last frost in the spring _____



Some vegetables need to be planted in warmer seasons and others are more resistant to cold weather. Look at the chart at the end of this manual to find out which they are.

To start, it is better to choose well-known vegetables.

You have probably already planted vegetables and know which grow best in your area.

There are vegetables that are easier to grow than others and these are better to start with.

Easy vegetables:

Swiss chard,
lettuce,
carrots,
zucchini.

You should try new plants little by little and in a short time you will be:

Expert horticulturists!



There are vegetables that occupy more space.

If the surface is limited, it is better to plant vegetables that occupy less space.

For larger surfaces:	For small surfaces:
pumpkin	leafy
potatoes	vegetables
beans	carrots

Test 4

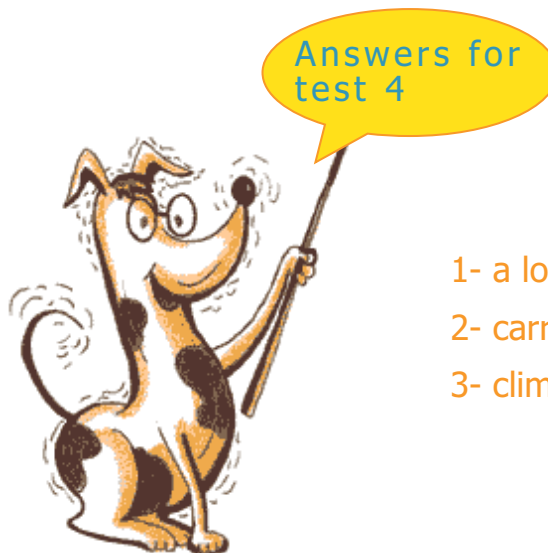
- 1- Potatoes and beans occupy space. **(a lot of - less)**
- 2- If the land is small, it is preferable to plant..... **(carrots - pumpkin)**
- 3- It is necessary to know the..... of the area to know when to plant. **(climate - land)**



We will continue with the garden plan. The following information is useful in planning your garden.

Garden plan:

- 1- Crop rotation
- 2- Interplanting
- 3- Relay planting
- 4- Intercropping



- 1- a lot of
- 2- carrots
- 3- climate

What is crop plant rotation?

It is not a good idea to always plant the same vegetables in the same place in the garden.

You should rotate your plants; this means to change the type of vegetables planted each season.

With this procedure you avoid:

- The depletion of the same nutrients in the soil.
- The appearance of many weeds, pests and diseases.



Eggplant



Tomato



Red pepper



Potatoes

These vegetables are from the same family.

Remember that:
You shouldn't rotate with vegetables of the same family.

Vegetables are grouped into different families

Solanaceous Family:	tomato eggplant red pepper potato
Leguminous Family:	peas beans
Cucurbitaceo us Family:	pumpkin melon watermelon



Beans



tomato

Remember that:
It is a good idea to rotate with vegetables of different families



onion



lettuce

Learning the main vegetable families is very useful. The chart at the end of this manual explains the vegetable families of all the vegetables you may wish to plant.



What is interplanting?

It's planting two or more species in alternating rows.

With this procedure you:

- Take better advantage of the land and minerals.
- Better weed control.

For example: it is possible to plant climbing vegetables on poles with low height vegetables.



How do you relay plant?

Remember that there are vegetables that can be sowed several times a year. With these it is possible to plant on different dates. This is relay planting. This method lets you have continuous vegetable production.

For example: you can sow seeds at 30 day intervals for the following vegetables: lettuce, Swiss chard, radishes. So you will always have fresh vegetables!



It is not necessary to use this procedure on vegetables that store well for long periods, like pumpkin, onion, potato and garlic.

Write down the sowings in the calendar.



How do you intercrop plant?

It is possible to sow early season crop seeds and late season crops seeds.

This is intercrop planting. With this method you:

- Can take better advantage of space.
- Leave less room for weeds.

Early season crops:	Late season crops:
radish	carrot
lettuce	onion



Test 5

Complete each sentence using one of the following words:

deep-same-fresh

- 1- The same vegetable shouldn't always be planted in the.....place.
- 2- It is a good idea to rotate a.....rooted vegetable by one with shallow roots.
- 3- Intensive planting lets you always have.....vegetables.

2- Available land

Size of the garden:

The ideal size of the garden depends upon the size of the land that you have, and how well you use it. If the space is very small, it won't be able to produce all the vegetables your family needs, but it will let you save money and always have fresh and nutritious vegetables.



Boxes

If you use your backyard properly you can increase the space of your garden.

Answers for test 5

- 1- same
- 2- deep
- 3- fresh

green living walls

At the end of this manual you will find more useful information for a planting system for very small spaces.



The garden should be well located, this is very important.

Look for the best location of the garden taking into account the following:

- As close to the house a possible, in order to avoid theft.
- Near a noncontaminated water source, for watering.
- With lots of sun!
- Away from high trees.
- Clean drainage or channels so that excess rainwater does not flood the garden or your neighbor's yard.
- Footpaths to walk on without stepping on the crops.

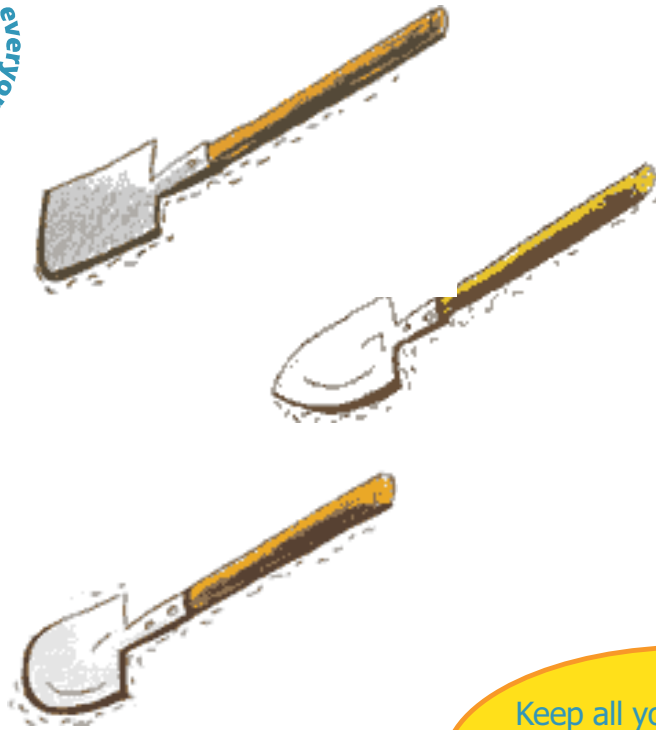


... protection is needed against wind, excess sun and high temperatures.

In windy areas, look for a place protected by trees or build some sort of protection.



Shelters can be constructed with branches to obtain a semi shade.



3- Some tools

Spade - flat, to mark and to cut the soil when it is soft.

Spade - pointed, when the ground is hard.

Shovel - wide, for loading and unloading earth, compost, etc.

Keep all your tools clean and well sharpened. Wash them after every use then rub them with an oiled rag.

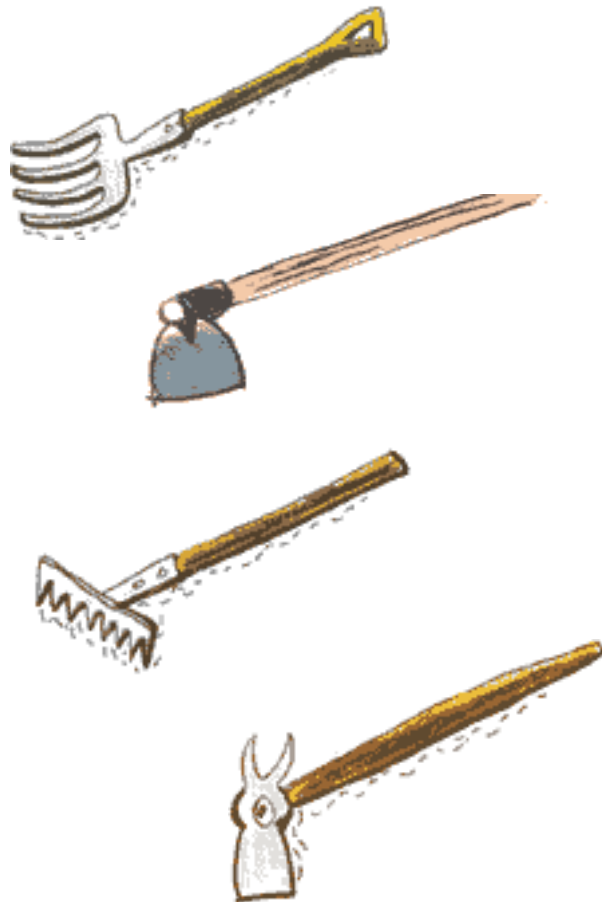


Garden - fork, to turn the soil and remove stones.

Hoe - to break up the soil, to break the crust, to remove weeds and to draw up furrows. The narrower the blade, the better it adapts to hard earth.

Rake - to break the soil crust, to remove lumps, to prepare the sowing bed and to cover the seeds.

Weeding hoe - to break the soil crust and to weed near the plant.





Dibbers or Transplanters - made from tree branches. Are useful for making holes where the seedlings will go and to hold the soil.

Trowel - to help move seedlings to their planting spot.

Watering can – to water seedlings and new plants with a light sprinkle. (A perforated can or a hose with sprinkler nozzle can also be used).

Not all the tools are essential, but you should at least have a spade, a rake and a hoe.





In this chapter
we have seen:

- 1- What the necessary elements to plant a garden are.
- 2- What a garden plan is.
- 3- The characteristics and location of the land.
- 4- Which tools are necessary.

Test 6

Place a "T" if the sentence is true and an "F" if it is false.

- 1-It is important to prepare a good garden plan before starting.
- 2-It is necessary to find out through the local technician which vegetables grow better in the area.
- 3-All vegetables must be cultivated when there is no danger of frost.
- 4-Rotating crops means to always plant them in the same place in the garden.
- 5-Rotating crops avoids that the same nutrients from the soil are exhausted.
- 6-It is advisable to rotate between vegetables of the same family.
- 7-The tomato, potato, red pepper and eggplant are from the Solanaceous family.
- 8-Vegetables from different families cannot be planted together.

If the answers were all correct, you can go up another step. Congratulations!

Answers for test 6

- 1-T
- 2- T
- 3- F
- 4- F
- 5- T
- 6- F
- 7- T
- 8- T

If two or more answers were not correct, you should review the material in Chapter 2

Expert horticulturists

Chapter 7

Chapter 6

Chapter 5

Chapter 4

Chapter 3

Chapter 2

Chapter 1

