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GREEN THUMB GARDENING



By CHRISTINE COLE

TIPS FOR VEGETABLE GARDENING

Interplant peas and corn. The peas will use the young corn plants for supporting eliminating the need to stake these. The peas will be harvested before they interfere with the corn fruiting season. An added benefit of this technique is that peas belong to the legume family. Members of this family fix their own nitrogen and as a consequence improve soil fertility. And since corn is a heavy feeder they complement each other beautifully.

Reduce the need for chemical pesticides by interplanting some of natures own pest repellants. Some of these include marigolds, onions and garlic, leeks and many herbs.

Get an early start of your vegetable garden by planting cool - season crops (they can go in 1 month before the last frost date). These include: Brocolli, Brussels sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower Kohl rabi, Leeks, Onions, Rutebagas (Turnip).

Deter cutworms by placing a hard paper or cardboard collar around the plants; pushed into the soil a few inches. The cutworms won't venture past the collar to destroy your crop.

Freshly transplanted vegetables are vulnerable to damage from the sun and wind. Help them acclimatize to the garden environment by placing a large juice can (with ends removed) around the plant. It will break the wind and sun. Remove after a few days to a week after transplanting.

Each week Christine Cole of Tuitman's Garden Centre and Landscaping, Highway 25, 1 mile south of Acton, 853-2480, will be presenting helpful tips and information to assist you in creating your garden showplace!

TUITMAN'S GARDEN CENTRE ACTON 853-2480