

Planning and starting your own vegetable garden

REB—The Canadian Champion, Wednesday, May 27, 1992

Involve the whole family in enjoying the taste of freshly picked veggies

Do you long for the taste of fresh-picked vegetables straight from the garden? Are you looking for a relaxing and rewarding outdoor project? If so, you may want to try planting a vegetable garden.

Even if you're a novice gardener, you can enjoy the fresh taste of home-grown vegetables and take pride in the fact that you grew them yourself. And you don't need a huge yard or acres of land to grow a healthy crop.

A vegetable garden is a project the whole family can take part in. Youngsters in particular, take great pride in planting things and watching them grow.

It's an ideal way to cultivate their interest and get them involved in household projects.

Growing your vegetables has other benefits as well; fresh picked vegetables have a higher vitamin content and their taste is far superior to those bought at the grocery store

or supermarket. There is a notable difference between the piquant flavour of a radish served straight from the garden and one that has been packed and shipped great distances to your local store.

You can also freeze many of vegetables so you can enjoy home-grown goodness all year around.

Even if you have a tiny yard and growing space is a problem, remember several vegetables, like cherry tomatoes, can be grown in pots.

Good Light and Soil: The most important ingredients for growing a successful vegetable garden are sunlight and good soil. It's also important to have good drainage and a realistic idea of the types of vegetables that will flourish in your particular locale. (Growing conditions can vary greatly from area to area.)

Because light is so important (about five or six hours are necessary per day), it's best

to try and avoid planting directly under any large trees.

And gardening authorities recommend you plant your garden fairly close to your house, to help discourage rodents from nibbling on your plants.

Consider Your Soil: Depending on the nature of your soil, you may have to prepare it before sowing your seeds or planting you seedlings. Compost is an excellent soil conditioner. To find out the best way to treat your soil, you may want to consult your local nursery. You may also want to get a sample of your soil analyzed by a soil testing lab.

Once you've determined the make-up of your soil, you can consult with the experts at your local gardening centre as to how to best prepare it for planting. (They might also be able to give you some tips on what will grow best in your particular soil type.)

If your soil is in very poor condition, you may want to consider using raised beds. These units — usually constructed of wood — are preferred by many gardeners because they sit on top of the ground and can be filled with many soil mixtures. They are also generally easier to maintain.

You can also plant your vegetables in large free-standing containers or planters — also an ideal way to conserve space.

Planning What and How much to Grow: When deciding what you want to grow, consider your climate, soil and personal preferences. And when calculating how much to plant, remember to factor in the fact that you will likely experience a few losses.

If this is your first attempt at a vegetable garden, try to be realistic in your expectations. Don't try to plant a large garden; you may be biting off more than you can chew.

Also keep in mind that much of your first-year growing experience will be trial and

error — but it will place you at a much better starting point the following year. By then, you'll have gained some experience and will have a good indication of what grows best in your particular soil and climate.

When selecting vegetable varieties, it's a good idea to check with the staff at your local gardening centre or books or journals for more information. It's a good idea to choose those that are known to be disease-resistant.

If you are looking for vegetables that mature quickly, herbs, turnips, radishes, spinach and lettuce are a safe bet.

Preparing and Planting: The easiest way to prepare a plot of ground for planting is to use a rotary tiller.

Check with your gardening centre or look in your phone book to see where you can rent one. Make sure the soil is fairly dry when you begin tilling.

Once your soil has been prepared, it's time to plant your vegetables. Most gardening authorities suggest that if your property is sloped, you should try to plant your rows following the shape of the slope. However, if it's level, they recommend planting in rows that run north and south.

When planting, be sure to wait until after the final killing frost of the season. This will vary somewhat from area to area.

You may want to start your plants from seeds, but many people find it easier to buy seedlings at their local nursery or gardening centre.

Be sure to follow the planting instructions and, soon enough, you'll have a hardy harvest of tasty, fresh-grown vegetables to enjoy.

□ This article is provided by local realtors and the Ontario Real Estate Association (OREA) for the benefit of consumers in the real estate market.

COUNTRYWIDE ALL-PRO REALTY INC.
 ANNE GENOE or AB GENOE
 Assoc. Broker Sales Rep.
 Res. (519) 853-1505
 Bus. 873-3377 Tor. 874-3057



\$199,000
MINUTES FROM MILTON
 This 3 bedroom country home sits on a well treed & landscaped 1 acre lot. Has above ground pool, separate workshop (16' x 20') & a garden shed. Located on paved road, mins. from 401 & Milton. Call Anne** or Ab* Genoe 853-1505 or 873-3377. CW92-026



\$135,900
PRICED TO SELL
 Fully detached brick bungalow with garage on tree lined street only minute walk to schools. For a list of the extras call Anne* or Ab* Genoe 853-1505. CW92-054

STELLA PARTON
 REAL ESTATE LIMITED
 BROKER
 BUS: (416) 878-7470
 HOME: (416) 878-7470



PRICED RIGHT
 Smart 2 bdrm. bungalow. Upgraded kitchen & dining rm. comb. L.R. & large heated front porch. 4 pc. bath. A pleasure to show & an excellent buy \$139,900.

STELLA PARTON 878-7470

ROYAL LEPAGE Advantage

 <p>1.3 BEAUTIFUL ACRES 8th Line North of Steeles is the wooded setting for this 4 bedroom home, pool, screened porch & finished basement. Makes this buy at \$299,900. Virginia Brazeau*878-8101.</p>	 <p>318 LAURIER AVE. \$129,900 Patio doors from family rm to deck & fenced yard, lg. eat-in kitchen & extra large master are some of the features of this townhome. For more information call Virginia Brazeau*878-8101.</p>	 <p>FAMILY LIFE THRIVES - \$243,900 In this 3 plus 1 bdrm home with family rm, 4 baths, attractive inground pool, central air, central vac, 2 fireplaces & finished rec room for an inspection. Call Barbara Crowe*878-8101.</p>	 <p>JUST LISTED - VALLEYVIEW CRES. Large family home on mature lot 4 bdrms. Plus 2 bdrm., kitchen - bath in-law suite. Asking \$298,000. A. Lear-Coetigan*878-8101.</p>	 <p>LARGE LOT QUIET COURT! \$185,900 - This Dorset Park Home has a lg. addition which offers lots of room for the growing family. Features include court location - lg. lot - inground pool - 4 bdrm (lg. master with ensuite) + family rm. Sandy Del Page*878-8101.</p>
 <p>NEW! WON'T LAST LONG! SEE WHY! \$274,900 This beauty has it all! A spectacular setting (3 ac. with trees and a stream - only 5 mins. to Milton) plus an attractive updated home with main flr family rm - new windows (89) new well (91) central air central vac & more! Sandy Del Page*878-8101.</p>	 <p>FORMULA FOR FINE LIVING IS ... Moving right in & arranging the furniture, no morning line ups with 3 washrooms, 4 bedrooms, central vacuum & air conditioning everything is so impeccably cared for \$124,900. Don't miss this! Call Eva Gooding*878-8101.</p>	 <p>AN INSPIRING HOME With so much value, gorgeous hardwood floors thruout 3 good-sized bedrooms, full finished recreation plus storage rm or office & 179,900. Check it out, you'll be glad you did! Call Eva Gooding*878-8101.</p>	 <p>IMMACULATE CUSTOM HOME - \$275,000 4 bedroom country home on .9 acres. Living rm featuring hardwood flrs, cathedral ceiling and floor to ceiling fireplace main flr laundry and family rm. Property is fenced and has 2 garden sheds. Call Norma or Ed Proveau*878-8101.</p>	 <p>ONE OF COUNTRY'S FINEST! \$449,000 4 Bedroom custom built brick & cedar home nestled in the trees. Main floor family rm with fireplace, main floor laundry & Florida rm with walkout to patio. Situated on 2 1/2 gorgeous acres. Call for information. Norma or Ed Proveau*878-8101.</p>
 <p>TIMBERLEA LISTING \$199,900 This spacious backdrop!! features inground pool, main family rm with fireplace, fin. bsmt., plus much more. To inspect call Sandi Kincaid*878-8101.</p>	<p>OPEN HOUSE - MAY 31, SUNDAY 2-4 P.M. APPLE BLOSSOM TIME IN YOUR OWN BACK YARD \$269,000 Ranch style home set on approximately 3/4 acre. Country living, yet close to town. Features 3 bedrooms, main floor laundry rm. finished rec room. Helen Hardy*878-8101.</p>	<p>EXECUTIVE ESTATE - CALEDON HILLS \$585,000 Custom built home set on 11 acres in a setting of tranquil charm. This elite home has all the modern amenities. 5,700 sq.ft. Helen Hardy*878-8101.</p> <p>GREAT LOCATION - GREAT VALUE! \$259,900 Features 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, finished rec rm. Mature trees & annuals enhance this exquisite 1/2 acre lot. Helen Hardy*878-8101.</p>	<p>HAVE A LOOK \$184,900 View the many improvements in this 3 bdrm home with lots of space to grow. Great location. Just move in. Call Barbara Ramsden* 878-8101.</p> <p>NOW YOU'RE TALKIN' A 2.5 acre lot just north of the 401 near Campbellville. Well & survey. Call Laurie Given for drive by directions asking \$159,000.</p>	<p>HARD TO BEAT THE PRICE 2 storey, 3 bedroom home, large eat-in kitchen with new flooring, patio doors from lovely family room - listed \$184,900. Call Barbara Ramsden*878-8101 for more information.</p> <p>RELAX... ENJOY This lovely home with lots of room to stretch. Family room with wet bar, fireplace and hardwood flooring, rec room, possible in-law suite. Call Barbara Ramsden*878-8101. Listed at \$214,900.</p>

388 MAIN ST. EAST

ROYAL LEPAGE

878-8101 (Tor. Line) 826-8218
 Toll Free 1-800-263-4176