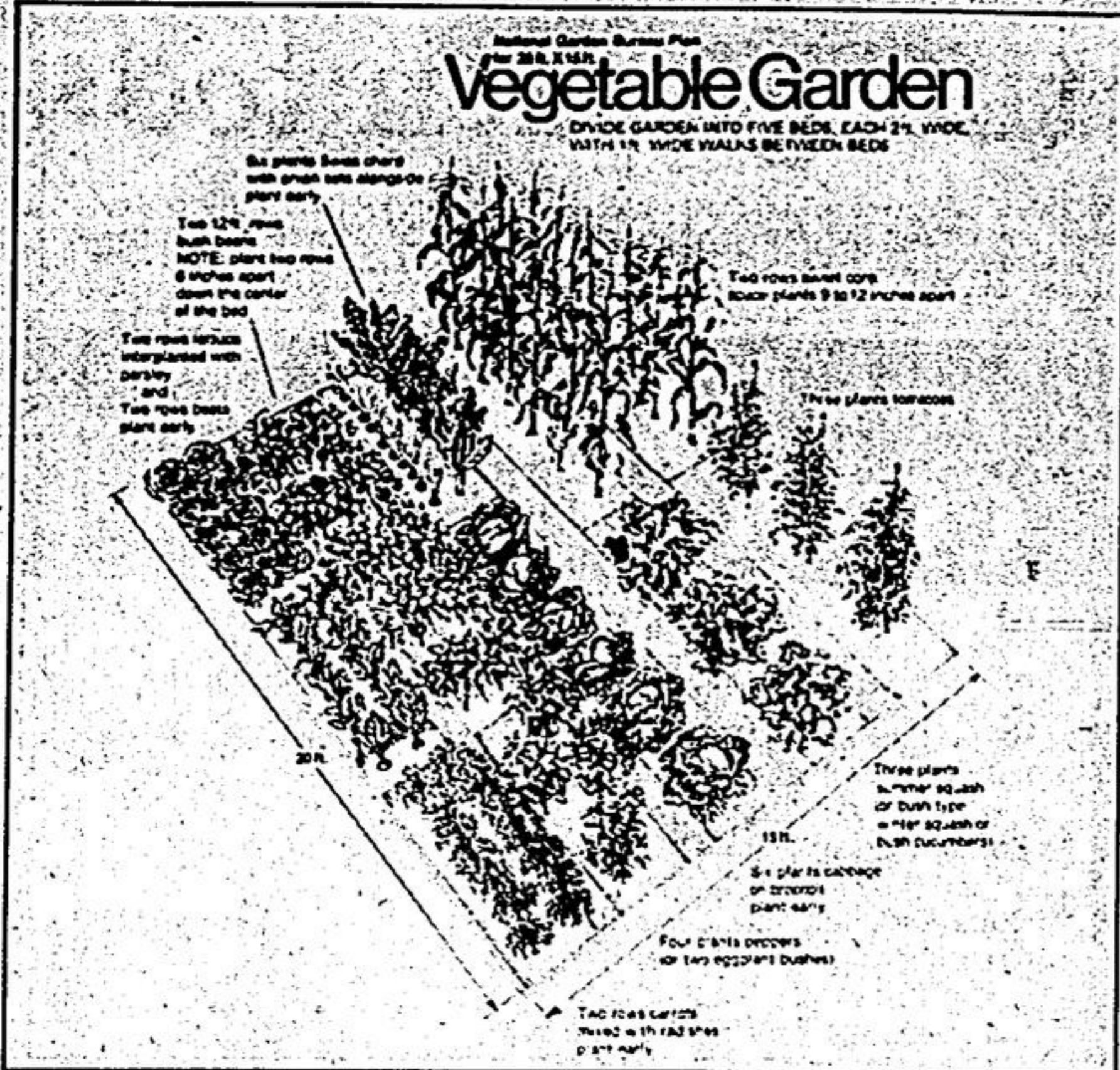


Home and Garden '83



Proper planning can make the most out of even the smallest vegetable garden.

Double garden yield plant expert insists

When choosing vegetables to grow, consider the size of garden, family preference, and the garden location. With good planning, the yield of the average family garden can be doubled, says Dr. H. Tiessen of the University of Guelph's department of horticultural science.

When selecting a garden site, choose the area with the most sunlight, good drainage, and good soil. In small gardens, soil conditions can be improved by adding topsoil, peat, manure sand or artificial medium.

Small areas with better environmental conditions can produce higher yields than larger, shaded, and poorly-drained areas. A minimum of six hours of sunlight each day is necessary. If the only sunny areas are patios or open driveways, plants can be grown in boxes of 30 centimetres to 45 centimetres (12 inches to 15 inches) of topsoil. In a small garden, only one or two veget-

ables, such as tomatoes, peppers and radishes, should be grown. Avoid space-consuming crops, such as squash, melons, cucumbers and potatoes. Concentrate only on crops which respond to intensive cultivation, Dr. Tiessen says.

Choose space-saving crops, such as carrots, beets, onions, radishes and lettuce. After one crop is harvested, another can be planted in its place.

Continuous cropping of tomatoes and peppers is desirable. In a small sunny area grow two or four plants of slicing cucumber on a trellis.

Perennials, such as asparagus, rhubarb and chives, can be grown in the perennial flower borders.

Through proper selection of vegetables, intensive cultivation, and proper management, it is possible to harvest quite a large volume of vegetables from a small growing area.

Vegetables can grow just about anywhere

By MARK CULLEN

The warm May sunshine will soon draw your attention to summer gardening and the special benefits of planting your own vegetables. It doesn't matter how small your back yard is, or, for that matter, whether you even have a back yard. Many vegetable gardeners enjoy reaping a harvest from their balcony or patio.

Large plastic containers or half barrels are available at most garden centres and suit this purpose. Fill your planters with a light mixture of soil, of 1/2 peat moss and 2/3 sandy loam, and plant the vegetable seeds right in to this soil mix. In the case of tomatoes, peppers and a number of vegetables, these plants are available in pre-planted trays of four or five plants, or flats of 30 to 60 plants. These pre-planted vegetables will bear fruit weeks earlier than the same varieties planted directly from seed.

Whether you grow vegetables in containers or in your own garden, keep the soil light by adding peat moss, humus, manure and sand and fertilize using 6-12-12 or a garden fertilizer with a similar analysis. The middle

number in the three-number analysis produces a high yield of fruit and strong, drought-resistant roots.

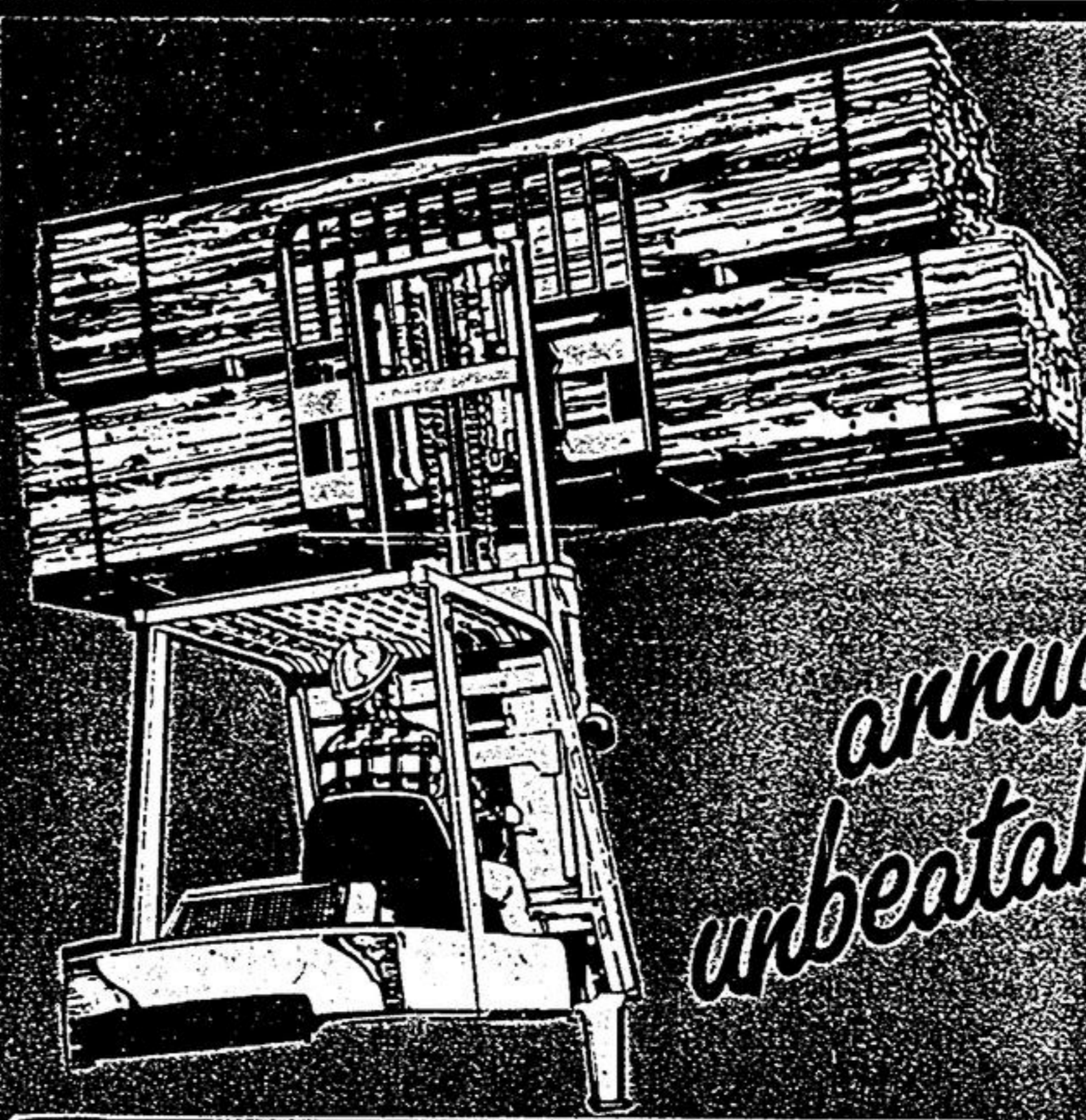
Always plant vegetables in a sunny location, do not overcrowd them and above all, water them whenever they need it. Keep your eye on your vegetables for little pests and diseases, an application of diazinon granules at the time of planting will prevent a lot of insect problems. Finally, let Mother Nature do the rest.

Mark Cullen is general manager of Weall and Cullen Nurseries. His CKEY 590 radio show Along the Garden Path can be heard from 11 a.m. to noon.

Traps for snails

Sowbugs and centipedes are usually beneficial garden guests, consuming decaying organic matter and waste products, and returning them to the soil as humus.

Snails and slugs however, can be quite injurious, feeding on the foliage and roots of many garden plants. Traps for snails and slugs are available at most garden centres.



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