

## JIM'S GARDEN TIPS FOR PARADISE

**Rule #1:** Make a commitment; "I will walk through my garden once each day with a hoe in my hand." One needs something to lean on while looking for problems such as weeds, bugs, or drought stress. You can also be looking for the upcoming harvest so you don't miss your vegetables at the peak of flavor and quality.

**Seed:** Use fresh seed packed for the current year. Seed bought from bulk lots is less expensive than the packets. Try *Anderson's* for bulk seeds. All varieties listed may be planted from seed, sown directly where it will grow, except for tomatoes and peppers which are better started early and set in the garden when it is warm.

**Varieties:** Corn, beans, squash, and potatoes are the big four top producers for the home garden. Many other crops do well and add a great deal to the enjoyment of your garden, and eating pleasure.

**Corn:** Plant May 5 and again June 1 and June 15. *Ambrosia* is an excellent super sweet corn which lasts a long time on the stalk. Rows 32" apart. Thin to 1 plant per foot. Plant 2 or 3 rows or more for good pollination. *Bodacious* is a great yellow corn.

**Beans:** *Jade* bush beans are excellent and do not require poles. Plant May 5 to June 15

**Squash:** *Hubbard, Table Queen Acorn, Yellow Crookneck, Zucchini, Butternut, Connecticut Field Pumpkins.* Plant May 5

**Potatoes:** *Pontiac* or *Russets*. The Russets keep better in storage and also have less tendency to scab in heavy soils. Plant mid April to May 10.

The following crops should be planted in April if possible: Onions, carrots, peas, lettuce, cabbage, broccoli, spinach, dill, kohlrabi, parsley, turnips, radish, arugula, mustard.

**Lettuce:** *Romaine, Black Seeded Simpson.* Thin to one plant per foot. Thinning is work. Try planting 3 or 4 seeds each foot in a bunch, then thin the bunches. A little seed goes a long way doing this.

**Broccoli:** *Waltham, Packman.* Plant in April. Thin to one plant per foot.

**Cabbage:** *Golden Acre* (early), *Danish Ballhead* (late) Thin to one plant per 18 inches. Cabbage and broccoli can be transplanted.

Carrots: *Royal Chantenay.* Try not to get them too thick to avoid a lot of thinning.

**Radish:** *Cherry Belle* are the best. They may be planted any time from mid April to Sept. 1. Make a small bed or row for radishes by adding some sand and peat. Plant a few every two weeks all season. They like full sun and lots of water. If they get dry, they will bolt. Put a little fertilizer on each time you plant.

**Cucumber:** *Marketmore 76,* Plant June 1. Disease resistant variety. Fruits are Straight Eight type.

**Cantaloupe:** *Burpee's Hybrid.* Plant third week of May to June 1.

**Watermelon:** *Charles Grey.* Plant third week of May.

**Beets:** *Detroit Dark Red.* Plant third week of April to June 10.

**Chard:** Plant third week of April to June 10.

**Parsnips:** Plant third week of April to June 1.

**Peas:** *Lincoln* or *Victory* for a freezer crop. The freezer varieties come all at once. *Wando* or *Little Marvel* for eating out of the garden. With these, the crop is spread out. *Wando* is a good choice for late planting as they do well in warm weather.

**Herbs:** Sage, parsley, summer savory, basil and chives are good choices. Sage and chives will winter over. Sometimes parsley will winter over. Garlic can also be grown here. Plant in the fall.

**Onions:** The *Yellow* onions keep better. *Red* onions are great for hamburger slicers. *Walla Walla* is early and sweet. *Big Daddy* gets huge. Plant sets, or plants, and the earlier the better in April. Seeds work too for small dry onions or green onions. Sow in April.

**Tomatoes and Peppers:** Plant nursery plants on June 1, or earlier if you use Wall-O-Waters.

In our dry mountain desert, irrigation is an absolute necessity for growing garden crops. One inch of water per week works well. If you sprinkle, put a pan or bucket out to catch water so you can see how much you put on. Run a Rainbird with a 3/16 inch nozzle for 12 hours once a week.

A little nitrogen fertilizer works wonders. Put it on at planting, and side dress a month later. Careful! A little is good, too much can burn your plants. Do not get it directly on the plants, just on the soil.

Try a few new varieties each year. You may find something that works really well for you. Add some leaves and/or manure to your garden and till deeply in the fall. Then in April you can just go plant.