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# The Facts - ABOUT 1945 VICTORY GARDENS

The wartime Victory Garden program for 1945 calls for as many gardens as in 1944.

At a recent meeting of garden leaders from many parts of the country, War Food Administrator Marvin Jones said: "Food is just as necessary as guns, tanks and planes. Home gardeners produced over 40 percent of the fresh vegetables this year and we are asking them to equal this record in 1945."

Farm goals call for continued full production in the year ahead, and the security of our food supply likewise depends on the sustained efforts of Victory Gardeners.

It is our firm national policy that there must be no let-down on the home front until the war is won. According to the War Food Administrator: "We have no grounds for believing that the Germans will stop fighting until the bitter end. This is added reason for keeping up production in our Victory Gardens."

A GARDEN WILL BENEFIT EVERY FARM FAMILY AND EVERY TOWN AND CITY FAMILY HAVING A FERTILE, SUNNY PLOT OR ACCESS TO A VACANT LOT.

A recent survey by the Department of Agriculture indicated that 18½ million gardens were grown in 1944. Here are the main reasons given:

1. To help the war
2. To get better vegetables
3. To save money

## APPEALS TO VICTORY GARDENERS IN 1945:

1. Garden for victory. Gardens that supply 40 percent of our fresh vegetables are essential to win the war. Appeals to patriotism should be strengthened to overcome any possible temptation to let down in expectation of an early end to the war in Europe.

2. Grow your own and play safe. If you have your own fruits and vegetables, you don't have to worry about crop failures in other parts of the country, bottlenecks in transportation or distribution, or anything else that might otherwise keep you from getting what you want when you want it. We had enough fresh vegetables in 1944 only because of 18½ million Victory Gardens added to the largest commercial crops in our history, with growing weather exceptionally favorable.

3. Save money. You can supply your family with fresh vegetables for a whole season at very little cost except the work you put in (and that's good for you too). Even a small garden, if well planned and tended, will yield \$25 to \$50 worth of vegetables.

4. Build your health. There's nothing like exercise and better meals to improve your health, which is doubly important in wartime. Vegetables right out of the garden have the most food value--because for most vegetables there is a rapid loss in certain vitamins after vegetables are taken from the soil. For an adequate diet, the average American needs about 50% more green and yellow vegetables and about 20% more tomatoes and citrus fruits than were available in 1944, according to nutritionists in the Department of Agriculture.

5. Home grown food is tastier. It's not only because you raised it yourself, with sweat and care. Vegetables and fruits do have a better flavor when they are really fresh, as they are when they come right from the garden. If people get to like fruits and vegetables better, they eat more--not only of what they grow but also of what they buy in the store--and that's usually good for them too.

6. Gardening is fun. There isn't a better hobby for lots of people. It makes you feel good. It relaxes your nerves. It's a family enterprise that brings together father and mother, son and daughter. Of course, gardening is hard work, takes care and patience, gives you trouble with bugs and what not--but that's where a sense of humor comes in. And, incidentally, humor is one appeal that can work wonders.

7. Gardens help the community. Individual gardens...and, more especially community gardens...promote neighborliness, sociability, cooperation. They stimulate a creative spirit that influences other community activities as well. They develop the kind of civic pride which spurs on the best in local enterprise.

THE ABOVE APPEALS ARE DESIGNED TO AROUSE AND MAINTAIN INTEREST. IN ADDITION, HERE ARE SOME PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Plan your garden for a long season--something fresh coming up from early until late in the fall.
2. Home canning plans should be included in garden plans.
3. Succession crops and intensive gardening are the answer if your plot is small.
4. Vacant lots may be obtained for neighborhood and community gardens.
5. Fruit growing has great possibilities along with vegetables.
6. School gardens are particularly desirable in connection with school lunch programs.
7. Industrial gardens sponsored by workers and management are excellent to build morale and boost production through better diets.

PLANS FOR THE 1945 VICTORY GARDEN PROGRAM ARE WELL ALONG IN NATIONAL MEDIA--INCLUDING PRESS, RADIO, MAGAZINES. THE SAME IS TRUE OF PLANS BY THE GOVERNMENT AND BY MANY NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. EYES ARE NOW TURNING TO THE LOCAL VICTORY GARDEN LEADERS AND COMMITTEES IN EVERY COMMUNITY...THE FRONT LINE FORCES IN THE VICTORY GARDEN PROGRAM.

Gardeners can obtain local advice and assistance from their V-G leaders, including county agents, garden clubs and committees, etc. State information is available from the State Agricultural Colleges and Extension Services.

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