

## Food Production Round-Table Discussion (Rev. 10/11/2018)

- Who has a vegetable garden growing this year - now or this past Spring or will in the Fall?
- Who plans on starting a garden now (in what passes as "normal" times)?
- Who plans on starting a garden to supply their food when the grocery stores are empty?
- Who maintains a Seed Bank of *local varieties* that gets rotated regularly?

### 1 Fowl and Livestock

#### 1.1 Predator protection

- 1.1.1 Most predators feed at night. Securely locking your poultry up at night will solve most problems.
- 1.1.2 Hawks hunt during the day. Smaller ducks and chickens are easy prey for them.
- 1.1.3 Secure cages - including the top - are needed.
- 1.1.4 Electric fence.
  - 1.1.4.1 Alternate hot and ground wires or ground the fence.
  - 1.1.4.2 A good ground is the key to using an electric fence.
  - 1.1.4.3 Solar powered fence charger
  - 1.1.4.4 Traps

#### 1.2 Chickens

- 1.2.1 Roosters can be a real pain to deal with, but got to have them
- 1.2.2 Roosters are NOT needed to produce eggs
- 1.2.3 Broodiness - pros and cons
  - 1.2.3.1 Brooding Cage
- 1.2.4 Count on losing a few chicks
- 1.2.5 Egg production requires lots of protein
  - 1.2.5.1 Chickens don't make protein - they convert vegetable protein into a form of protein more readily suited for food. No protein in means no protein out.
  - 1.2.5.2 Eggs are considered the perfect protein source
  - 1.2.5.3 Sources for chicken feed?
- 1.2.6 If you can't feed 'em - eat 'em
- 1.2.7 Free ranging
  - 1.2.7.1 Good for supplementing their food
  - 1.2.7.2 Chickens will tear up a garden. Fencing and wing clipping help.
- 1.2.8 Chickens in the garden
  - 1.2.8.1 Wing clipping

#### 1.3 Ducks

- 1.3.1 Generally better at foraging
- 1.3.2 Less disease problem
- 1.3.3 Seem to be less susceptible to hawks
- 1.3.4 Somewhat quieter, and more fun to watch
- 1.3.5 Some breeds produce almost as many eggs as chickens
- 1.3.6 Difficult to incubate
- 1.3.7 Muscovy are good at setting
- 1.3.8 Mallard-descended breeds do not fly, Muscovys fly

#### 1.4 Geese

- 1.4.1 Great "watchdog"
- 1.4.2 Not a good choice for residential area
- 1.4.3 Males can be very aggressive
- 1.4.4 Pilgrim is sex-linked

- 1.4.5 Toulouse good "barn yard" breed
- 1.5 Guinea Fowl
  - 1.5.1 Good "watch dog"
  - 1.5.2 Known for reducing tick population
  - 1.5.3 Roost in trees, but nest on the ground
- 1.6 Goats
- 1.7 Pigs
- 1.8 Rabbits
- 1.9 Other
  - 1.9.1 Guinea Pigs
- 2 Vegetable Garden
  - 2.1 Soil
    - 2.1.1 What do you have now?
    - 2.1.2 Improve or Replace?
    - 2.1.3 Soil Testing
  - 2.2 Varieties should be Open Pollinated
  - 2.3 Should be able to save seeds
  - 2.4 Companion Planting
  - 2.5 Crop Rotation
  - 2.6 Cover crops
    - 2.6.1 Winter Rye - cool weather
    - 2.6.2 Brown Top Millet - hot weather
  - 2.7 Distance between rows and between plants
    - 2.7.1 Close planting shades out weeds, but makes weeding more difficult
    - 2.7.2 Plants are competing for nutrients and water. If either are not plentiful, then increase spacing.
  - 2.8 Planting Time
    - 2.8.1 Plant as early as possible to harvest before insect pests reach their peak
    - 2.8.2 Plant seedlings for transplanting to get the earliest start and best use of seed
- 3 Seed Saving
  - 3.1 The key to maintaining viability in seeds is to reduce the moisture
  - 3.2 Secondary factor is keep the seeds cool
  - 3.3 Make sure that there are no insects or their eggs in the seeds
  - 3.4 Harvesting seeds
    - 3.4.1 Dry - Beans, corn, okra, and similar
      - 3.4.1.1 Allow to dry on the plant
      - 3.4.1.2 Harvest, clean, and store
    - 3.4.2 Wet - Tomatoes, eggplant, squash, pumpkin, etc.
      - 3.4.2.1 Allow fruit to rot
      - 3.4.2.2 Scoop out seeds into water
      - 3.4.2.3 Allow to ferment for a day or so to remove pulp
      - 3.4.2.4 Clean seeds
      - 3.4.2.5 Decant water and rinse until clean
      - 3.4.2.6 Spread out to dry
  - 3.5 Storing the seeds
- 4 Seed Bank Project
  - 4.1 Seeds proven to grow well in this area
  - 4.2 Instructions, planting time, seed saving, etc.
  - 4.3 Package in quart or gallon paint can

## 5 Seed Starting

- 5.1 Why transplant rather than direct seeding?
- 5.2 Lighting and setup
- 5.3 Seed trays
- 5.4 Seed handling tools
- 5.5 Watering
- 5.6 Fertilization - fish emulsion
- 5.7 When to transplanting
  - 5.7.1 Weather
  - 5.7.2 Depends on the type of plant - fast growing or slower
  - 5.7.3 Hardening off - more of a northern thing
- 5.8 Tools for removing from seed tray
- 5.9 Hoss tools transplanting wheel

## 6 Types of gardening

- 6.1 Conventional row crops
  - 6.1.1 Easier for larger areas than other methods
  - 6.1.2 Crop rotation and laying fallow is more practical
- 6.2 No-Till
- 6.3 Raised Bed
  - 6.3.1 More control
  - 6.3.2 Easier to work on
  - 6.3.3 Harder for some types of pests to get to plants
  - 6.3.4 Expensive to get started, and difficult to move if needed
- 6.4 Three-Sisters
  - 6.4.1 Corn planted first
  - 6.4.2 Beans climb the corn and form "guy wires" for wind
  - 6.4.3 Squash (pumpkin) blocks sun to control weeds
    - 6.4.3.1 Serious problems with worms boring into the squash
    - 6.4.3.2 Tromboncino has a hard shell that protects against boring worms
  - 6.4.4 Problems
    - 6.4.4.1 Corn is generally not a great choice for a survival garden
      - 6.4.4.1.1 Depletes the soil
      - 6.4.4.1.2 Low yield per acre
      - 6.4.4.1.3 Squirrels, coons, possums
      - 6.4.4.1.4 If you grow, use a dent corn that can be dried, shelled, and ground
      - 6.4.4.1.5 Hand crank corn sheller - eBay
      - 6.4.4.1.6 Corn may need to be grown for chicken feed
- 6.5 Technical
  - 6.5.1 Hydroponics
  - 6.5.2 Verti-Grow
  - 6.5.3 Anything automated
- 6.6 Reclaimed lawn / golf course / etc.
  - 6.6.1 Good candidate for Seminole Pumpkin, Sweet Potatoes, other spreading plants
  - 6.6.2 Plant in holes dug, with compost added
- 6.7 Back to Eden method
  - 6.7.1 Bad choice for survival gardening
  - 6.7.2 Bad choice for gardening in the South, may work better in the North
  - 6.7.3 Claim is that it drastically reduces weeding
  - 6.7.4 <https://youtu.be/ZtAm8klFtgQ?t=600>

- 6.7.5 Food products grown around here are annual crops - not perennial
- 7 Crops
  - 7.1 Grow Potatoes if you had to be limited to one thing to eat
    - 7.1.1 Yukon Gold - good variety to grow
    - 7.1.2 Timing is critically important with potatoes
      - 7.1.2.1 Early planting is best, but that means spuds will rot before planting time.
      - 7.1.2.2 Later planting gives the shortest time to store seed potatoes.
      - 7.1.2.3 Can be grown from cuttings, but very low yield - most die.
    - 7.1.3 Potatoes grown in hot weather do not produce spuds - only plant
    - 7.1.4 Potatoes are part of the stem, and not part of the root.
      - 7.1.4.1 More eyes yield more potatoes, but smaller
      - 7.1.4.2 Fewer eyes (cut into chunks with one eye) yield fewer, but larger
      - 7.1.4.3 Same principle applies to other crops as well. More space = larger potatoes
  - 7.2 Sweet Potatoes (Centennial)
    - 7.2.1 Continuous production
    - 7.2.2 Very easy to propogate
    - 7.2.3 Keep returning year after year
    - 7.2.4 The greens can be picked and eaten
    - 7.2.5 Good balance with white potatoes
    - 7.2.6 Good choice to plant in odd places
  - 7.3 Okra
    - 7.3.1 Good hot weather crop
    - 7.3.2 Heavy Hitter strain of Clemson Spineless
  - 7.4 Beans
    - 7.4.1 Kentucky Wonder
    - 7.4.2 Pole beans are a better choice unless you plan to pick and can
  - 7.5 Eggplant (Florida Highbush)
  - 7.6 Seminole Pumpkin
  - 7.7 Secondary (maybe have a few just for variety)
    - 7.7.1 Tomato (Homestead 24)
    - 7.7.2 Green peppers (Carolina Wonder)
  - 7.8 Grains
    - 7.8.1 If any crops are being commercially produced, it will be grains
      - 7.8.1.1 Long lasting before spoilage
      - 7.8.1.2 Ideally suited for bulk transportation
      - 7.8.1.3 Used in many different forms
- 8 Pest Control
  - 8.1 Organic
    - 8.1.1 BT
    - 8.1.2 Neem Oil
- 9 Non-Organic
  - 9.1 Seven, etc.
- 10 Other
  - 10.1 Hand picking bugs
  - 10.2 Bat houses
  - 10.3 Bird netting
  - 10.4 Trapping
- 11 Weed Control
  - 11.1 Get them while they are small is the key to weed control

- 11.2 Weed seeds can remain dormant for many years
- 11.3 Down side to tilling is bringing weed seeds to the surface
- 11.4 Geese are used for weeding (strawberry fields)
- 12 Water
  - 12.1 Reclaimed rain water
  - 12.2 Buckets and watering cans
  - 12.3 Fertilize at the same time
- 13 Fertilization
  - 13.1 Store commercial fertilizer in a DRY place. Lots of it. (10-10-10)
  - 13.2 Make a compost pile
    - 13.2.1 No way that you can produce enough compost to maintain your garden
    - 13.2.2 Use compost tea to add liquid fertilizer to individual plants
    - 13.2.3 Anaerobic (no Oxygen) compost stinks
    - 13.2.4 See David The Good books for more on this
- 14 Fruit Trees
  - 14.1 Peaches
    - 14.1.1 Self-pollinating
    - 14.1.2 Floridaprince
    - 14.1.3 Tropic Beauty
  - 14.2 Pears
  - 14.3 Persimmon
    - 14.3.1 NO pollinator needed, better, seedless fruit
    - 14.3.2 Astringent
    - 14.3.3 Non-Astringent
      - 14.3.3.1 Fuyu
  - 14.4 Figs
    - 14.4.1 Brown Turkey most popular here - no opening for insects
  - 14.5 Apple
    - 14.5.1 Need pollinator
  - 14.6 Moringa - very fast growing
    - 14.6.1 Not a fruit tree, but the leaves are harvested.
    - 14.6.2 Dried, ground into power, used as a high-nutrition supplement
    - 14.6.3 Keep trimmed down to about shoulder-height for easy harvesting
- 15 Minimal Attention
  - 15.1 Sweet Potato
  - 15.2 Seminole Pumpkin
  - 15.3 Food Garden hand-out
- 16 Other
  - 16.1 Fish (Aquaponics)
  - 16.2 Fishing
  - 16.3 Shrimp
  - 16.4 Crabs
  - 16.5 Hunting
    - 16.5.1 Pest control
    - 16.5.2 Pellet rifle
  - 16.6 Trapping
    - 16.6.1 Pest control
    - 16.6.2 [fntpost.com](http://fntpost.com) Fur Harvester's Trading Post