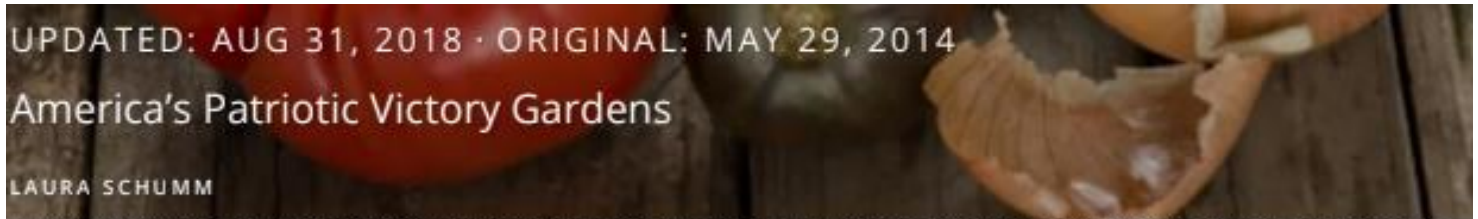


Virtual Victory Garden Project

Directions: Create a virtual victory garden. During times of crisis American communities often pull together to solve problems. The entire world is currently in one of these crisis times. Your assignment this week is to research and design a virtual victory garden. However, you are encouraged to find an area in your yard to put your plan into action if possible and try your hand at installing your own victory garden.

The History of Victory Gardens. Read the following article published by the History Channel



During World War I, a severe food crisis emerged in Europe as agricultural workers were recruited into military service and farms were transformed into battlefields. As a result, the burden of feeding millions of starving people fell to the United States. In March of 1917—just weeks before the United States entered the war—Charles Lathrop Pack organized the National War Garden Commission to encourage Americans to contribute to the war effort by planting, fertilizing, harvesting and storing their own fruits and vegetables so that more food could be exported to our allies. Citizens were urged to utilize all idle land that was not already engaged in agricultural production—including school and company grounds, parks, backyards or any available vacant lots.

Promoted through propaganda posters advocating that civilians “Sow the seeds of victory” by planting their own vegetables, the war garden movement (as it was originally known) was spread by word of mouth through numerous women’s clubs, civic associations and chambers of commerce, which actively encouraged participation in the campaign. Amateur gardeners were provided with instruction pamphlets on how, when and where to sow, and were offered suggestions as to the best crops to plant, along with tips on preventing disease and insect infestations. The endeavor was so well received that the government turned its attention to distributing canning and drying manuals to help people preserve their surplus crops. In addition to the appeal to men

Some of the most popular produce grown included beans, beets, cabbage, carrots, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, peas, tomatoes, turnips, squash and Swiss chard. Through the distribution of several million government-sponsored pamphlets, fledgling farmers were advised to maximize their garden’s productivity by practicing succession planting, and were encouraged to record the germination rates of seeds, along with any diseases or insects they may have encountered, in order to minimize waste and improve their garden’s output the following year.

Throughout both world wars, the Victory Garden campaign served as a successful means of boosting morale, expressing patriotism, safeguarding against food shortages on the home front, and easing the burden on the commercial farmers working arduously to feed troops and civilians overseas. In 1942, roughly 15 million families planted victory gardens; by 1944, an estimated 20 million victory gardens produced roughly 8 million tons of food—which was the equivalent of more than 40 percent of all the fresh fruits and vegetables consumed in the United States. Although the government’s promotion of victory gardens ended with the war, a renaissance movement has sprouted up in recent years in support of self-sufficiency and eating seasonally to improve health through local, organic farming and sustainable agriculture.

History of Victory Gardens Continued: Watch the following 4 minute You Tube video CBS Sunday Morning Special – “Victory Gardens” for the pandemic

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rQmjb4uf62U>

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Virtual Victory Garden Project Requirements:

1. What is a victory garden?
2. How did victory gardens benefit families during World War 1 and 2?
3. Plan your virtual victory garden –
 - a. Research foods that will grow in your part of Georgia,
 - b. Which varieties are going to give you the most harvest?
 - c. Which varieties will grow during this time of year?
4. Select 5 different foods you want to grow – fruits or vegetables
5. For each of your 5 foods answer the following questions
 - a. Planting depth
 - b. Row spacing
 - c. Days to maturity – how long does it take for the food to be ready to harvest?
 - d. What is the growth pattern – bushy, trailing/spreads along ground, needs cage for support, needs trellis to grow upright, etc
 - e. Does it have companion plants? Plants that grow well when planted near each other
 - f. Does it have plants it does not near to be planted near?
6. For each of the 5 foods answer the following preserving questions
 - a. Can this food be stored? For how long?
 - b. What is the best way to preserve it for a longer period? Freezing/canning
 - c. Describe this preserving process

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