Planning Your Garden

Careful planning before the first guide stake is driven conserves time and energy throughout the gardening season. Follow these easy steps:

**STEP I — Choose Kind and Amount of Garden Crops**
Check the vegetables listed in Table, Step I, and determine the length of rows needed for each crop you have selected.

**STEP II — Plan the Garden Arrangement**
Draw your garden area to scale on a piece of graph paper, letting one 1/4-inch square equal either 3 ft. or 6 ft. With 36-inch row spacing, crop rows will fall on each 1/4-inch line, using the 3-ft. scale. Lay out the rows and placement of crops as follows:

1. **Space Rows 36 Inches Apart.** This makes it possible to straddle the rows of small crops and to cultivate between rows as crops become larger. In small garden areas, the 36-inch space may be subdivided with quick-growing crops planted between rows. Vine crops should be spaced at six feet.

2. **Group Perennial Vegetables** such as asparagus and rhubarb, along with raspberries and other small fruit on one side of the garden, to allow a clear area for tractor operations over the balance of the garden.

3. **List Early-Planted Crops,** starting from one side (preferably south), then list the later warm-season crops. Save time by working up a strip of ground, planting it, then working up the next strip as needed.

4. **Avoid Shading Smaller Crops.** Put tall plants on the north side, if possible. Where rows run north and south, place tall crops on either side, and vine crops with six-foot spacing next to the last planting.

5. **Allow Space for Successive Plantings.** Garden tractors make repeated plantings more practical because of the ease of working the ground.

6. **Limit the amount** of Swiss chard, parsley, radishes and other crops where small quantities go a long way.

**STEP III — Order the Right Kind and Amount of Seed.**
Check the Seed Order Guide (Table, Step III), reliable seed catalogs, and bulletins and circulars published by your State Agricultural College.