



Yankton Seed Library

Heads-Up on Harvesting

Yankton Seed Library

The mission of the Yankton Seed Library is to increase our ability to feed ourselves wholesome food, while enriching our natural surroundings, by offering: free local fruit, vegetable, and flower seeds raised by and for Yankton area residents; and complimentary information, instruction and education about gardening.

Saving & Sharing Seeds

The seeds you borrow from the Yankton Seed Library are lent to you at no financial cost, and they are priceless. A commitment to growing plants from seeds is a gift to yourself and your family. We hope you learn much, experience the joy of gardening, and enjoy the fruits of your labor.



Education material presented by *Missouri Valley Master Gardeners*



In 2015, the SDSU Extension Master Gardeners contributed more than 13,000 hours of volunteer service, worth more than \$255,000 to South Dakota individuals, families and communities. There are two options available for training. With the standard application you will receive the training, the Resource Manual and access to the online training. After completing the training and passing a final test, you will be a Master Gardener Intern. To become a full-fledged SDSU Extension Master Gardener, participants are obligated to provide 50 hours of volunteer service back to the people of South Dakota over the next two years. The cost for the standard training is \$160.

The second option is available for individuals that want to get the training and resource manual but do not have the desire to become an SDSU Extension Master Gardener. These individuals will receive the same training as the future SDSU Extension Master Gardener Interns but there is no volunteer service requirement and those who do not volunteer, will not become an SDSU Extension Master Gardener upon completion of the course. The cost of that option is \$500. -

See more at:

<http://igrow.org/news/registration-for-master-gardener-training/#sthash.GG1YwMUJ.dpuf>



Heads-Up On Harvesting

Ready or not, here comes the bounty of the harvest.

Early planning and paying close attention to your plants helps to stay ahead of the harvest.

How is my record keeping?



Missouri Valley Master Gardeners Garden Planner

Offerings were: green beans, cucumbers, kale, green peppers, pumpkins, tomatoes, bachelor buttons, four o'clock's, hollyhocks and zinnias.



Record Keeping For Success

- What did you plant?
- Where did you plant?
- What is the expected harvest date?
- Where are my vegetable packets?
- Where is my garden diagram?



Being Prepared To Harvest

How do I start?

Bring a basket to your garden:

Pick ripening vegetables to encourage your plants to produce more produce.

Watch for the proper vegetable size, shape, weight and color.



Recognizing Signs Of Trouble

Rotting leaves

Leaf damage

Pests

Discolored leaves

Wilted leaves

Insects

Blight

Animals

Bacteria



What To Look For...Shape, Color, Size and Weight

What SHAPE is a ready vegetable?

What is the vegetable COLOR?

What is the correct SIZE to harvest?

What is expected harvest WEIGHT?



BEANS

Beans should be checked daily for harvesting. Snap beans/green beans are ready when the pods have filled out but the seeds are still tiny, which, depending on weather conditions, is usually some two to four weeks after bloom. The pods should be firm and crisp, with pliable tips.

www.gardeningknowhow.com



KALE

Kale is ready to harvest when the leaves are about the size of your hand. Pick about one fistful of leaves per harvest. Kale will continue growing until it's 20 degrees F. It tastes even sweeter with a touch of frost. If you wish to extend your harvest, shield your kale from the cold with row covers.

www.OldFarmersAlmanac.com



PEPPERS

Sweet Bell type peppers are can be harvested when firm and full size (at least 3 1/2 to 4 inches) but still green. If left to ripen, they may also turn red, yellow, orange, purple or even chocolate-colored depending on the cultivar. The less green you see, the sweeter the taste in both sweet and hot peppers. www.gardenweb.com



PUMPKINS

Press your nail into the pumpkin's skin; if it resists puncture, it is ripe. To harvest the pumpkin, cut the fruit off the vine carefully with a sharp knife or pruners; do not tear. Be sure not to cut too close to the pumpkin; a liberal amount of stem (3 to 4 inches) will increase the pumpkin's keeping time.

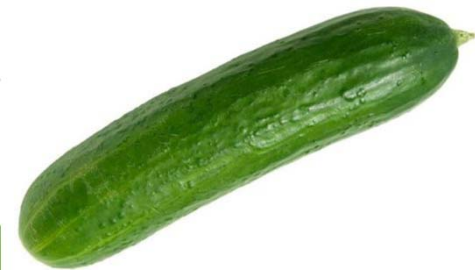
www.OldFarmersAlmanac.com



CUCUMBERS

Cucumbers left on the vine too long have a bitter taste that ruins the fresh flavor. The fruits ripen at different times on the vine, so it is essential to pick them as they are ready. Harvest when the fruit is the right size, which is usually eight to ten days after the first female flowers open.

www.motherearthnews.com



TOMATOES

Of course, you can also harvest tomato fruit when it is ripe; ripe fruit will sink in water. These vine ripened tomatoes may be the sweetest but some types of tomato are too heavy to vine ripen, hence picking tomatoes at their mature green stage and allowing the ethylene gas to continue the ripening process.
www.gardeningknowhow.com



BACHELOR BUTTONS

Allow flowers to mature and fade on the plant. Seed pods develop at the base of the flower and turn light tan to brown when mature. Remove the pod and allow it to dry for a few days. With your thumb rub open the end of the pod, loosened seeds should release freely.

www.planetnatural.com



FOUR O'CLOCK

-Select a healthy four o'clock plant that is blooming well. Monitor the flowers on the selected plants and begin checking for seeds once the petals fall off naturally.

-Separate the green leaves that were around the base of each flower before the petals fell. Locate the large black seed nestled in the center of the old flower.

-Slip the seed out of the center of each dead flower with your thumb. Alternatively, snip off the old flower heads then remove the seeds from the old flower heads.

-Spread the seeds out on a paper plate in a single layer. Dry them in a low-moisture, warm area out of direct sunlight for five to seven days.

-Store the seeds in a tightly sealed jar or container in a cool, dark area until planting. Label the container with the four o'clock variety and year harvested.

www.SFGate.com



HOLLYHOCKS

Most hollyhocks are biennials, so the plants only last two seasons and then don't come back. Gathering their seeds is a very smart idea, and nature's way of reproducing. For a flower to produce seeds some basic things need to happen. First, the flowers need to self- or cross-pollinate. Pollination occurs when the flower is open, pollen is visible and either wind or insects carry the pollen to the center of the flower. The flower is then fertilized and the seeds begin their development. The time period for seed development varies. Flowers "go to seed" when they are not disturbed on the stem, the petals fall off and a podlike fruit forms. When the pod looks dry and begins to open, go grab your seeds. These seeds can then be started indoors the next growing season, about six weeks before the last frost or planted directly into the soil when it is ready. www.CountryLiving.com



ZINNIAS

The first step is to allow the flower head to dry completely on the plant. It will be dark brown and dry when it is ready to harvest. Trying to harvest the seed head too early will result in immature seeds, which will not germinate. Once your seed head is dry, cut or pull it off of the plant.

www.OrganicGardeningKnowHow.com



Happy Harvesting...

Questions?

Next Class: *Seed Saving*

When: Tuesday, August 9, 2016

Times: 1:00pm and 6:30pm

Where: Yankton Community Library

See you next month!

