

The Square Footer



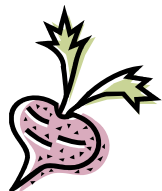
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Welcome to *The Square Footer*. It was nice to meet all of you Tuesday evening and see so much excitement and enthusiasm for gardening. We hope that you have your garden set up and planted and are eagerly awaiting those fresh vegetables. Through this newsletter we hope to stay in contact with you and answer your questions as we progress through the growing season.

ARE THEY READY YET?

Remember – the seed packet is your guide. Hang on to it for reference as we go through the season. The first vegetables to be ready will be radishes, lettuce, spinach, and onions. They will be ready in about 30 days. It is sometimes hard to be patient as we eagerly await that favorite fresh vegetable.



WHAT ABOUT THE BUNNIES?

Rabbits love their fresh vegetables and can be a tenacious pest! Fencing and repellents can be used to protect your garden. Unfortunately none are fool proof. If you are fencing, use chicken wire as the openings in the wire are small enough to keep rabbits out. Be sure to fence all around your garden, and leave yourself enough room to work around your garden. Also, make sure that they are unable to crawl underneath your fence. Be sure to have a gate or some way in the fence for easy access for you to get to your garden.

If you use a commercial repellent be sure to follow the label directions listed on the container. These will have to be re-applied throughout the growing season as specified on the label. Commercial repellents are available at hardware stores, nurseries, etc.

Dried blood and mothballs can also be used but need to be re-applied every time it rains. A homemade repellent can also be made by mixing 2 tablespoons ground red pepper, 1 tablespoon white glue, and 1 quart water. This mixture can be applied to your plants and re-applied as necessary for rabbit control.

COMPOSTING

Many of you had questions regarding composting Tuesday evening. Composting can be a very effective way to recycle organic matter and improve soil structure. Adding properly aged compost to the soil improves water holding capacity and enriches the soil bacterial activity which in turn has a direct affect on your plants. You can make your own compost at home by saving leaves, grass clippings, vegetable peelings and tops, egg shells, etc. If you are interested in starting your own compost, call our office and request publication H-885, Composting Practices, or go to the website www.ag.ndsu.edu and look under publications for this information.



TOP 10 REASONS TO EAT MORE FRUITS & VEGGIES

10. Color & Texture
9. Convenience
8. Fiber
7. Low in Calories
6. May Reduce Disease Risk
5. Vitamins & Minerals
4. Variety
3. Quick, Natural Snack
2. Fun to Eat
1. Tastes Great!

