

# The Square Footer



**NDSU**  
Extension Service  
RICHLAND COUNTY  
418 2nd Avenue N.  
Wahpeton, ND 58075  
(701) 642-7793  
dale.siebert@ndsu.edu

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## EVALUATION

Enclosed with this newsletter is a short evaluation that we hope you will complete and return to us. Tell us what you liked and didn't like about this program and return it in the enclosed self addressed envelope. Thank you!

## GARDEN CLEANUP

The days are getting shorter and school is back in session. Summer is over and soon we will need to prepare our gardens for winter. As plants quit producing they should be pulled out of the garden and destroyed. This will help to reduce disease problems next year.



If you have not harvested all of your onions they are probably ready to be harvested now. Onions are ready when their tops break over. If you plan to store onions you should cut off the tops and allow them to cure and dry in a cool place before placing them in storage. Spread them out on a newspaper or shallow box and allow them to cure for a week or so before storing.

If a light frost is predicted and your tomato plants still have green fruit on them they can be covered with a blanket or plastic to protect them. Uncover the next morning after the frost danger has passed. Do not leave them covered during the day as they may get too warm and damage the fruit. If a killing frost is predicted you may want to pick any remaining green tomatoes and ripen them indoors. Place them in a shallow box and cover them with newspaper for a few days and they will ripen.

Carrots and beets can be left in the garden a while longer, but be sure to harvest before a hard frost. If you

wish they can be harvested anytime as they are rapidly nearing the end of their growth.

After you have cleared all of the vegetation from your garden, remove the square foot grid and store for winter. The soil mixture can then be tilled lightly to discourage any insect pests that may be present. Next spring, prior to planting, compost will need to be added to your garden. Add enough compost so that the soil level is approximately one inch below the sides of your garden and then mix the soil in the box.

Now would also be a good time to make a few notes on what worked well with your garden and any changes that you would make for next year. Review the notes next spring as you plan your garden for next year.

## SAVING SEEDS

If you wish you can save seeds from your produce to plant next year. Seeds can easily be saved from beans and peas and even tomatoes and cucumbers. Allow the vegetable to mature in the garden, harvest the vegetable and remove the seeds. Spread the seeds out in a cool dry place and allow them to dry. Once they are dry they can be packaged and stored. I prefer paper bags for storage. If they are not dry enough when they are placed in storage they may mold in an airtight container. Be sure and label the seeds so that you can remember what they are next spring!



## MORE MATTERS

Check out the following website for some cool stuff about fruits and veggies:

<http://www.fruitsandveggiesmorematters.org>