

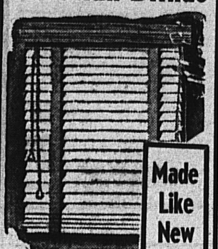
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## Victory Gardens

Somebody's careful analysis of living costs shows that the total cost—the A to Z of living—has not increased too much. Retail prices of food, however, are greater than the general average rise and are thus a major factor in the total cost of living picture. There is little likelihood of their going down. Chances are the costs may go higher. An efficient garden will save you money and give you more food—food full of vitamins because it's fresh. Have you planted yet?

Last week we promised variety suggestions. Proper choice of variety will permit year-around growing of essential vegetables. In all cases there are other good varieties than those mentioned.

**Detroit Dark Red** or **Early Wonder** table beets can be planted year around, and if properly fertilized and cared for will give good results.

**Italian Green Sprouting** broccoli will give production over the longest season. After the central head is cut, lateral branches will develop smaller but edible head Lucullus is about the best green variety of chard. Rhubarb is the kind with red stem. The leaves of both are high in vitamins.

**Imperator** and **Red Core** Chantenay are about "tops" in carrots, with **Danvers' Half Long** probably better on very heavy soil where the longer kinds would have difficulty developing a good root.

In lettuce there are several varieties and kinds. For spring planting, use leaf lettuce varieties of which **Black Seeded Simpson** is best known and a good standard variety. **Romaine** or **Cos** is a quick grower. Outside leaves can be pulled for a

long time—same is true of **Simpson**. Bib is a small lettuce, very dark green, high in vitamins. Head lettuce varieties should be planted only in the fall and winter for winter and spring maturity. **New York Market** is recommended. **Big Boston** has bronze tips, the leaves, is very tender, but pale green and has less vitamins.

**Tender Green** or **Giant Wonder** mustard greens are most commonly used. **Purple Top** and **Strap Leaf** turnip varieties are favorites in this line.

For string beans the **Kentucky Wonder** is a justifiable favorite. **Yellow Wax** is also popular, together with several other kinds. **Yellow Crook Neck** summer squash is prolific and higher in vitamins than the **White Bush Scallop** and **Early Prolific**. Zucchini squash, being dark green, has good vitamin value. While it's a little late for planting cabbage—heads won't be too good when they develop in warm weather—the **Fiat Dutch**, **Ballhead** and **Savoy** will do fairly well if planted right away (early April). They are better if planted before the end of February. From August through December, **Golden Acre** and **Copenhagen** will be good.

Cucumbers—**Long Green** and **Lemon**. **Utah Green** is the best vitamin-containing celery. Blanching varieties are low in vitamins. **New York**, **Black Beauty** or **Long Purple** eggplant are good.

**Sweet Spanish**, **White Portugal**, **Italian Red**, **Early Yellow Globe** are good for dry onions. **White Bunching** and **White Portugal** are the best green onions, but any of the others are satisfactory for home use.

**White Tip** and **Scarlet Globe** radishes are probably the most popular. **Frickley Winter** and **Viroflay** spinach will give big yields and the most food value.

Pearson is probably the most reliable garden variety of tomato, but don't try planting it until late May or June—yes, even July, if you want the best results. **Stone** and **Pritchard** varieties are also good.

**California Wonder** is the best bell pepper. Use **Anaheim Chili** or **Perfection** for a "hot" number. Don't plant these until May.

**Key West** is probably most popular with Porto Rico second in sweet potatoes for those who want the sweet or yam type. **Nancy Hall** is a drier, yellow-colored kind.

**Sweet corn** is a garden favorite where there is plenty of room. **Golden Cross** is the outstanding variety for mid-April to July plantings. **Oregon Evergreen** planted in June or July will give a late crop.

For winter squash, the **Hubbard**, **Banana**, and **Table Queen** planted in May or June, harvested at frost time in the fall, will store well.

These suggested varieties should all be available in garden size seed packets. Directions will be on the packet for planting and spacing. More detailed information on culture is available in the Victory Garden Guide prepared by the Agricultural Extension Service for Los Angeles county conditions. This pamphlet is obtainable without charge by telephoning the Extension office—MUTUAL 3383, or dropping a post card to 808 North Spring Street, Los Angeles 12.

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## These Simple Methods Will Improve Garden Soil

Garden soil should never be worked when too wet, but as soon as a handful, patted between your palms, crumbles instead of forming a mud pie, it is time to begin spading or plowing, to make ready for sowing the first seed.

If your garden plot has six hours' sun a day, and is free from the roots of trees and shrubs, its soil can probably be put into good condition to grow vegetables.

The most frequent condition which needs correction is a predominance of clay, which makes a heavy soil, difficult to work, which cracks water well but shrinks and holds when dry.

The problem of dealing with clay is simply to make it coarser. It can be coarsened by mixing with its coarse materials, such as old ashes, cinders, fine gravel, or best of all, well decayed organic matter from a compost heap or old manure pile. Sand is often recommended, but a little sand often seems to make clay harder; very large quantities should be used, if any. Instead of sand, fine limestone screenings which are just as cheap, will do a fine job.

Lime has a special effect upon clay. It makes the fine particles collect into coarser grains. It also has a chemical effect on soils. While lime is not a fertilizer, it makes plant foods which are present in the soil available to the plants.

When soil is too acid, or too alkaline, chemical analysis is extremely complex make it difficult or impossible for plants to get the nutritive elements required for growth.

Soil should test from pH 5 to pH 7, to be sure that your plants will benefit from the fertilizer you apply. The pH scale is used to measure the active acidity of the soil. Each unit on the pH scale represents a tenfold difference in acidity, so that compared with pH 7, pH 6 is ten times and pH 5 one hundred times as acid.

Soils that are too sandy let water through too quickly, and with the water goes much of the plant food which you had intended to be stored for the use of your plants all season. Clay can be mixed with sand to good effect, and any form of decayed organic matter, or humus, will help make sandy soil retain water and fertility. Lime also improves sandy soil.

An important role of humus in soil is to act like a sponge in absorbing and storing water up to a certain point, but rejecting an excess. Get all the humus into your soil that you can, provided it is thoroughly decayed.



When Soil Crumbles in the Hand, It Is Dry Enough to Work.

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## Silicone Rubber Possibilities Find Interest Among Industries in Area

The large synthetic rubber industries in Torrance are vitally interested in the future possibilities of silicone rubber which recently was included on the government "secret" list of products, stated Reed H. Parkin, President of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, today.

Dr. A. Lincoln Marshall, head of the chemical section of General Electric's research laboratory in Schenectady, New York, in a recent demonstration described a silicone garden hose which can be left in the garden forever; a truck tire to outlast the vehicle itself, and a golf ball of the material which the late John D. Rockefeller, Sr., could have used all his life and bequeathed to his grandchildren, Parkin said.

Silicone was described as having a molecular background of alternating silicon and oxygen atoms similar to the quartz molecule, which gives it high resistance to heat and great elasticity. The compound, known chemically as dimethyl silicone, crosses or mixes with either organics or inorganic substances. All the present production is from a large pilot plant at Schenectady, which now produces for war purposes.

Parkin added that he had little doubt that Torrance would be the synthetic rubber capital of the nation, if taxation problems could be worked out with the enterprises which will become interested in carrying on the industry after the war. With the refinements known to engineers and chemists at this time, synthetic rubber bids fair to take the place of natural rubber, and the U. S. Government intends to see that the program will be carried out for at least fifty years, to insure that we will never again be "caught short" on our rubber needs for war or peace.

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## WAC Conference Tomorrow in University Club

Mrs. Donald Armstrong, of Palos Verdes Estates, regional chairman for the civilian advisory committee to the Women's Army Corps for Torrance, and other beach towns, will be one of the 60 key members of the Southern California Advisory Committee members to attend a luncheon-conference to be held at the University Club, 614 South Hope Street, Los Angeles.

Mrs. Herman J. Garretson, Southern California chairman of the National Civilian Advisory Committee announced that new plans for the committee will be unfolded at the meeting, as the California hospital platoons will be closed on March 31, in accordance with an announcement made by Major Knox Manning, A.A.F., Commanding Officer for War recruiting in Southern California.

Military leaders are expected to attend the conference, including Major Manning, Major Madelyn M. Jennings, WAC; First Lieutenant Eileen M. Knowler, WAC, and others.

## TOWNSEND CLUB By LOTTIE WADE

Torrance Townsend club will hold an Easter Party on Friday evening, March 30 in the Men's Bible Class hall on Cravens Ave. There will be games with prizes for high scores. Also a door prize. Refreshments will be served after which there will be dancing. The social on March 23rd was attended by a nice crowd considering the blustery weather. There were visitors from Redondo Clubs. The buncos were enjoyed especially by those who do not dance. Tasty refreshments were served and dancing to the always good music filled the remainder of the evening.

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## OPA Rent Office Open Daily From 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Announcement was made today by Charles H. Blaylock, associate rent director, that effective Monday, March 26th, the Office of Price Administration, Rent Control Division, at 241 East 5th Street, Long Beach, California, will be open to the general public from 9:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Mondays through Fridays, and from 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon on Saturdays.

The reason for the change in office hours is due to the heavy workload requiring additional time for the staff to dispose of clerical work within the office and make preparations to meet the public.

## 2017 IN SERVICE

The military service flag of the county government now contains 2017 stars, 18 of which are gold, according to a report compiled by Supervisor John Anderson Ford. There are 18,000 workers on the county pay roll.



Waste and Extravagance in the Use of Water Is Sabotage

- Y—Use all the water you need for cleanliness and for health. Drink what you need. Use what you need for cooking. Use the water you need for bathing and in the laundry—but Don't waste it.
- Y—Use water on your lawn or your garden wisely. Don't water-log the ground. Better to irrigate it well as the rain would do, say once a week, than to sprinkle lightly every day.
- X—Avoid wasteful habits, such as letting the faucet run while you do something else.
- X—Don't accumulate piles of trash in the cellar or the attic or any other place around the home. That's a fire hazard and it takes water to put out fires.
- X—Don't let water fixtures leak—whether it be a drip or a deluge.

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