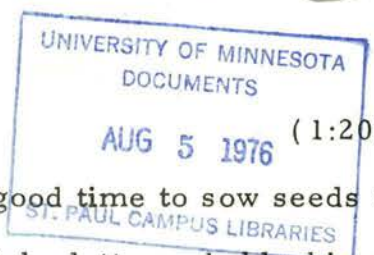


August 6, 1976

Vegetable Gardening

(612) 373-0710

The first part of August is a good time to sow seeds for your fall vegetables. These include radish, lettuce, kohlrabi, spinach, turnips and Chinese cabbage. With the cooler weather and shorter days, these crops will make excellent growth of good quality.

Minnesota Extension Horticulturist Orrin Turnquist says harvest the vegetables often to obtain a greater production of good quality produce. Green beans, cucumbers and tomatoes will bear longer if they are picked just as soon as the fruit is ready for use. Don't allow fruits to get overripe. This will lower the productivity of the plant and will also encourage the scavenger or sap beetles.

Breaking over the tops of onions does not hasten maturity, but may cause neck rot and bulb decay. When the onions are mature they will break over the neck naturally.

Those small tomato-like fruits on your potato plants are true potato fruits and are not the result of being crossed with tomatoes. This varies with the variety and season. The fruit is not edible and has no real use to the home gardener.

If the underside of the tomato fruits are turning black and rotting, it is blossom-end rot. This can be prevented by applying a mulch of grass clippings, clean straw, corn cobs or sawdust around the plants. This will smother the weeds and eliminate the need for cultivating and possible root pruning. The mulch will also conserve moisture and provide a more uniform supply to the plant. Heavy pruning and over-fertilization will also cause this abnormality.

\* \* \* \*

yard/garden  
radio briefs

This archival publication may not reflect current scientific knowledge or recommendations.  
Current information available from University of Minnesota Extension: <http://www.extension.umn.edu>