

mn 2000 46 7/31/67

Yard 'n' Garden

Prepared and distributed by the Minnesota Agricultural Extension Service

For use week of July 31, 1967



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St. Paul, Minnesota 55101



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SELECTING VEGETABLES FOR EXHIBIT

Part of the fun of gardening is to exhibit your results at county fairs and other events. It is important to be selective when choosing materials for exhibits.

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Each specimen entered in an exhibit should be a true example of the variety you are growing. Study seed catalogs to help determine the ideal specimen.

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Specimens should be uniform in size, shape, color, maturity and should represent the distinguishing features of the variety. Uniformity is a very important characteristic of a good exhibit.

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Good showmanship is important, too. Wash root vegetables carefully. Don't scrub them. Trim specimens properly so root crops have 1 to 1½ inches of stem attached and the same amount of tap root. Let two or three wrapper leaves remain on cabbage, but trim the stem neatly. Do not skin onions. Sweet corn should be shown in the husk. Don't remove the stems from cucumbers or squash, but always show tomatoes without stems.

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Select specimens undamaged by insects, diseases or mechanical injuries. Over-mature specimens are usually poor quality. Don't show them. Pick vegetables you think will stay in good condition during the entire time of the show. Avoid exhibiting leaf lettuce, spinach, and parsley which often wilt and become poor specimens. It's best to exhibit parsley as a house plant.

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Labels, stating variety, are essential to an educational exhibit. Attach your neatly made cards to the container not to the specimen.

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Be sure to check the premium list. Bring in the exact number of specimens required: no more, no less.

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Issued in furtherance of cooperative extension work in agriculture and home economics, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Luther J. Pickrel, Director of Agricultural Extension Service, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101.