

## OVERVIEW:

- 1. What is succession planting?
- 2. The problem with crop planning
- 3. Our "Perpetual Harvest Hack"
- 4. Carrying crops over
- 5. Storage tips and tricks



#### WHAT IS SUCCESSION PLANTING?

- 1. What is succession planting?
- 2. Each time you harvest have another crop ready to plant
- 3. Example with lettuce
- 4. Example with peas and green beans





#### THE PROBLEM WITH CROP PLANNING

- 1. You've got to:
  - 1. Figure out when to plant your first crop
  - 2. Then how long before it will be harvested
  - 3. And how long of a harvest window you can expect from it
  - 4. And then when to plant the second succession crop so that it is ready to go in when the first crop is harvested
  - 5. Plus figure out how long in the season the crop can be grown
  - And then repeat that for each crop because they are all different
  - 7. AND figure out how to map all of those crop times into your physical growing space!



#### THE SIMPLE WAY

- 1. Gardening is full of decisions
- 2. The simple art of knowing:
  - 1. What to do (PLAN)
  - 2. How to do it (ACTION)
  - 3. And doing it at the right time (TIMING)
- 3. Power of the "Perpetual Harvest Hack"







## CARRYING CROPS OVER

- 1. Some crops can be carried over the winter
  - 1. Examples of these plants are:
    - 1. Carrots
    - 2. Beets
    - 3. Greens
  - 2. Make sure to grow extra because you will be harvesting it over a longer period of time



# STORAGE TIPS AND TRICKS

#### **POTATOES**

- 1. Potatoes can be cured a couple different ways
- 2. One way is to simply leave them in the ground for one to two weeks after the plants die back and then harvest and store them



### **CURING POTATOES**

- 1. Another way to cure your potatoes is to harvest them after they flower and when the plants have begun to die back, and then keep them stored in a dark room that's kept at 60° to 75°F and 80 to 90 percent relative humidity for one to two weeks to cure them
- 2. Potatoes can then be stored in boxes or breathable containers in a dark place and keep best at lower temperatures between 40° to 50°F

## **CURING POTATOES**

- Make sure not to wash your potatoes before storing them.
  Simply rub the dirt off with your hands as washing them will shorten their storage life
- 2. Sunlight will cause them to turn green and render them inedible (alkaloid levels increase, can cause digestive problems, taste biter, and in extreme cases cause neurological problems and worse)
- 3. Kennebec and Yukon Gold are a couple great varieties that are known to be good keepers

#### **SWEET POTATOES**

- 1. Unlike many other vegetables, sweet potatoes actually get sweeter with age as their starches turn to sugars
- 2. That's why if you've ever picked a fresh sweet potato out of the field it might not have been very sweet



#### **CURING SWEET POTATOES**

- 1. To cure your sweet potatoes store them in a very warm and humid room ideally around 80° 85°F with 80-90 percent humidity for one to two weeks
- 2. After being cured sweet potatoes can then be stored in boxes or breathable containers in a dark place and are best kept around 55° to 60°F they do not do well being stored at lower temperatures

#### **CURING SWEET POTATOES**

- Like potatoes, it is best not to wash your sweet potatoes before storing them – instead simply rub the dirt off of them
- 2. Beauregard sweet potatoes are a common type but I personally enjoy Georgia Jets the best
- 3. Or if you enjoy white sweet potatoes, try growing a white O'Henry

#### WINTER SQUASH

- 1. Some winter squash varieties store better than others
- 2. One of the best for storage are butternuts
- 3. Hubbards and buttercups come in next while thinner-skinned squashes such as acorn, delicata, and spaghetti squashes should be used pretty quickly



## **CURING WINTER SQUASH**

- 1. For long lasting storage it is important when harvesting winter squash to not break the stems off of the squash itself
- 2. This can be easy to do and so you may want to use a knife or some pruning sheers to avoid breaking the stems off
- 3. Once harvested, cure your winter squash in a warm room around 70° to 80°F with humidity at 80-85 percent and good ventilation for one to two weeks

## **CURING WINTER SQUASH**

- 1. Once cured, store your winter squash in a cool place (50° to 55°F) with good air circulation and moderate humidity
- 2. Winter squash is much more sensitive to moisture which can lead to mold and rot that's why it is important to have good air circulation
- 3. It is fine to wash the dirt off of your winter squash with a damp rag before storing them just make sure they dry out well

#### ONIONS

- 1. Harvest onions when their tops have fallen over and/ or are around half dead
- 2. Onions should be cured in a warm, well ventilated, shady place at 80° or more for two to four weeks



#### **ONIONS**

- 1. Once the onions foliage has completely dried out and the stems contain no moisture you can cut them off about an inch above the bulb
- 2. Store onions in boxes or mesh bags in a dark place that is cool (35° to 45°F)



#### **GARLIC**

- Garlic should be harvested when the plants begin to start dying back
- 2. Truly the best way to know that the garlic is ready is to harvest a few and inspect them



## CURING GARLIC

- 1. You'll want the whole bulb to be intact and to be able to feel the individual cloves – if it is splitting apart or the skin is deteriorating than you've waited too long and they will not store as well
- 2. If you are growing hardneck garlic then remember to harvest the scapes while they are growing these are great to eat as well!

## CURING GARLIC

- Once your garlic is harvested, cure it in a warm, well ventilated place around 80°F or more for two to three weeks until the garlic stems are completely dry
- 2. Once the leaves and stems are completely dry, cut the stem a few inches above the bulb and store them in boxes or in mesh bags in a cool dark place (around 35° to 45°F)



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