



a quarter's worth

Notes from the National Lecturer

On Groundhog Day, Punxsuntawney Phil saw his shadow and there will be six more weeks of winter.

Every year, no matter whether our furry friend sees his shadow or not, from February 2nd to the Spring Equinox, which is March 22, it's always six weeks. And as a gardener, I don't pay attention to groundhogs, I watch the weather in real time.

I watch weather reports and weather radar. And I make my best guess for the best planting dates depending on temperature, soil moisture and personal mood.

Yes. Attitude is everything when gardening. And probably any kind of agriculture as well.

Speaking of weather, I've had some questions about the Weather Watcher Challenge. First of all, it is not a contest. It is a Challenge. What's the difference? I am not offering monetary prizes nor ribbons. What I am offering is a challenge for some programming

cont'd on page 2

Mapping your garden is key to success

By Ann Bercher
National Grange Lecturer

The sun is shining here in Minnesota. It's below zero and there is snow everywhere. It's time to start planning the garden!

Seed catalogs have been coming in the mail for a few weeks now and the temptation to start ordering seeds is getting to be too much! But before I do that, I really need to make a plan for my garden. When I worked at the Kelley Farm, we had sever-

al gardens to plan, map out, and procure seeds for.

The first question you might have is *how does someone plan a garden?*

I suggest you go back to February 2022's Quarter's Worth and read the article "From Your Garden to Your Plate." <https://www.nationalgrange.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/A-Quarters-Worth-Vol-1-2022.pdf>.

The next question you might have is *why make a map?*

A map can do several things. First, if you measure out your garden space you can plot out your garden so you don't over buy seeds and seedlings or overfill it. It will help you identify how many seeds or seedlings you will need. A map identifies all your plants in one place. You can go back to your map and add additional information that you might be able to use for next year.

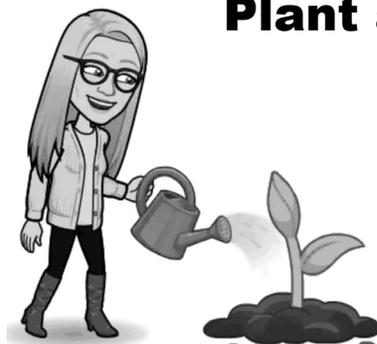
To begin, if you can, measure out your garden space or at least make your best guess as to its dimensions. From there you

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Vegetable Garden Plan, courtesy of Garden Therapy

Plant a Seed!



Be sure to check out the National Weather Service Website for great weather information! <https://www.weather.gov/>

Another Resource is Climate Generation. This is a website and blog that is part of the Will Steger Legacy. Will Steger was one of the team that made it to the North Pole using sled dogs in 1986. There are lots of educational resources for all ages on this website. <https://climategen.org/>



Q2 DEADLINE

Deadline for submissions for *A Quarter's Worth*, Second Quarter edition is May 1st. Send articles, ideas, tips, shout outs and other content to National Lecturer Ann Bercher at lecturer@nationalgrange.org or contact her by phone at (612) 501-1231

NATIONAL NOTES *cont'd... from page 1*

you can take on in your Granges to watch and be aware of weather much as our farmers do. I look at this challenge as an opportunity for all of us to learn more about weather patterns, cause and effect of various weather systems, and the impact that our changing weather has on us locally.

Watching your evening news, you will also see how changing weather patterns are affecting people all across our country in new and sometimes devastating ways. I would still like you to fill out the charts. I recommend that you do it for at least a month, but any length of time may make you more aware, and appreciate the subtle changes in weather that could make a huge impact. In September, I would appreciate seeing your charts with any other comments you might have added.

Be sure to join our very first Lecturer's Forum on February 28th! I am hoping we can share lots of new program ideas there!

“Fidgeting” is a good thing!

By Emma Edelen
Lecturer, Iowa State Grange

Chester Royal Grange #2181 in Iowa made and collected fidgets for the local middle and high school. We had marble mesh tubes, snakes, chain fidgets, squish toys, stress balls, pop-its, calm strips, and felt marble mazes.

When fidget tools are donated to schools, a lot of people think that only younger students need these learning supports. However, older students are often forgotten about and also have a hard

time focusing in classes. So having a quiet fidget can be the difference between hearing and being able to focus throughout the day versus not being able to concentrate in their classes at all.



Members of Chester Royal Grange #2181 (IA) pose with the fidget tools that were made and collected for local schools. Photo provided.

can draw your garden out on a sheet of graph paper. This is handy if you have unusually shaped garden beds, are square-foot gardening (<https://gardentherapy.ca/square-foot-planting-guide/>), or are using containers. From there, you can add plants to your map. Another mapping method is to simply list the plants in the order you will be planting them in. This works great for a square or rectangular garden.

Before you begin plotting out your plan, review the list of plants you would like to grow, look up their space, sunlight, and water requirements to determine how many of each you can fit into your garden space. You might want to start with the plants you consider "necessities."

If you want to can lots of tomatoes, make lots of salsa, and freeze tomatoes, you will want to locate those plants on your map first along with the additional veggies you will need - peppers, garlic, onions, and herbs. Then, you can add additional plants as space permits. Pay attention to the plants that grow vertically or require trellising, such as pole beans, indeterminate tomatoes, and

possibly cucumbers. Be sure to allow plenty of room for vining crops such as squash, pumpkins and melons. You can follow with short season crops that you can plant in succession such as lettuce and other salad greens and radishes.

I have included several garden maps for your consideration including my own balcony garden plan using containers, a square foot garden map and a couple of list maps. Here are some websites that might also inspire you and your mapping project:

- <https://growagoodlife.com/vegetable-garden-map-garden-beds/>
- <https://www.gardeners.com/how-to/kitchen-garden-planer/garden-planner-home.html>
- <https://www.almanac.com/over-20-vegetable-garden-lay-out-ideas>

When using your map, be sure to identify the exact name of the plant. Identify how long the rows are in your garden and label how many plants you planted in the row, or how many feet of the row you planted by direct seeding. Include the date you planted the seeds

or seedlings.

You might want to add additional information as your gardening season progresses. If this is a new garden space, you might want to identify sun/shade patterns. Watching where the shade falls as the summer progresses will be valuable information for next year. You can label harvest dates and the quantity of produce harvest from each planting. You can also include notes about crop failure, insect damage or diseases. This will also be valuable information for next year.

Your garden map might become a journaling activity you use it weekly to make notes about what is happening in your garden.

Even my little balcony garden can offer some interesting journal entries. Last summer, I noticed hummingbirds were exploring the blooms on the malabar spinach plant!

It also helped me select plants for this year. For example, I'm spreading out the herbs - last year, I had them all in one large pot; this year, I am spreading them out a bit.

I admit that balcony gardening is new to me, but I have my notes from last summer and a new plan for this year. I will also be spending time in a much larger community garden space that I share with a friend. That garden is also mapped out and notes from previous years help us to plan and adjust for this year.

If you have questions about garden mapping for the Garden Contest, please feel free to contact me!

Ann's personal gardening maps and lists can be found on pages 5 & 6.

<h2 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">SQUARE FOOT PLANTING GUIDE</h2>							
 Arugula 16	 Dill 9	 Leeks 6	 Rutabagas 4	 Fennel 2	 Bok Choy 1	 Melons 1	 Rosemary 1
 Carrots 16	 Onions 9	 Bush Beans 4	 Basil 2	 Kale 2	 Brussel Sprouts 1	 Okra 1	 Sage 1
 Leaf Lettuce 16	 Parsnips 9	 Pole Beans 4	 Calendula 2	 Parsley 2	 Cabbage 1	 Oregano 1	 Summer Squash 1
 Radishes 16	 Spinach 9	 Garlic 4	 Celery 2	 Potatoes 2	 Cauliflower 1	 Hot Peppers 1	 Winter Squash 1
 Beets 9	 Turnips 9	 Kohlrabi 4	 Corn 2	 Swiss Chard 2	 Chives 1	 Peppers 1	 Sweet Potatoes 1
 Cilantro 9	 Peas 8	 Head Lettuce 4	 Cucumbers 2	 Thyme 2	 Eggplants 1	 Pumpkins 1	 Tomatoes 1
 Number denotes # of plantings per square foot							

Square Foot Planting Guide, courtesy of Garden Therapy. View the larger image at <https://gardentherapy.ca/square-foot-planting-guide/>

Cuba Grange finds the fun

By Sandra Green
Cuba Grange #799, New York

Recently, Cuba Grange held a Quarter Carnival for the public, where all games and refreshments cost a quarter. It was a very popular event!

Games included dropping clothespins into a milk bottle, a duck pond (with Grange ducks), klinko (we bought the board from a man in town who had made

it), a memory game, Jingo, and bowling (with potato chip cans).

Eats included popcorn and hotdogs cut in fourths. We offered horse-drawn wagon rides also. We are willing to help any Grange that would like our help to try one.

Our members also enjoy "Chain Reaction", singing older songs, and playing Grange Bingo. We know how to find the fun!

Shout Out!

I take this opportunity to do a shout out for the Future Farmers of America! Green Bluff Grange #300 was recently privileged to provide the venue for an FFA Swing Dance. This young group respected the Hall for the event and left it decorated for the next event, the Toys for Tots Christmas gift drive. These young adults can be proud of their motto: "Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve."

It is said that we are the total of our "Life-long Experiences". All that is left of my over half-century-old tattered blue corduroy jacket is the FFA emblem and a new memory.

– Phil Kuhnkey, Spokane, WA

Use your Grange members' talents as programs

By Patricia Cutting
Sunbeam Grange #2, Minnesota

Do any members of your Grange have the talent of telling stories? Have a story telling night. Ask your members to tell a story, real or made-up.

Do any members have the ability to do woodwork? Maybe they could make something to use as a prize for a raffle. Have those that worked on the project explain the process of making the item – how they chose the item to make, who

was responsible for doing the different tasks, and showing the finished project and then setting up the raffle.

Can any members sew? Find a project that could maybe start at a Grange meeting with tracing patterns, cutting pieces and pinning pieces together and then the sewers in your Grange can do the sewing. Use the finished project to give to someone, use it as a raffle item or to decorate your hall.

Can any of your members sing? Start a Grange Choir which could

sing at a senior living center, the local library or a pre-school program – it doesn't have to be perfect (invite community members to join).

I know your Granges are loaded with talent. Let's use those talents.

Remember that the Lecturer (Program Director) is responsible for the programs but it does not mean that the Director has to provide all the programs.

Have fun with the programs in 2023, as they say "think outside the box."



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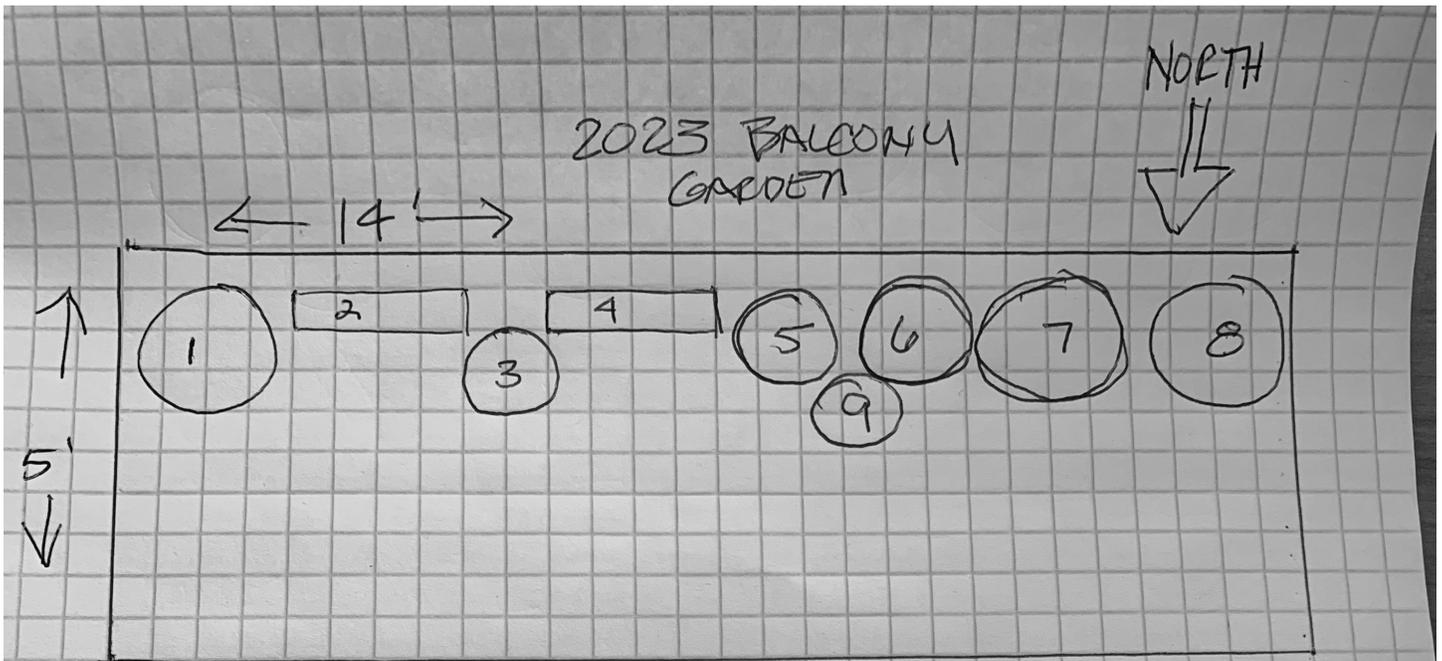
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W N Road Section C? between Fulton
 & 5th

- 5-28 pole bean Kentucky Wonder; Monte
 5-27 brown, white onions; Gusto wax
 5-27 brown, white on. in sets 7 leeks
 5-27 Hestia (4) Brussels Sprouts Gustus (4)
 5-27 glads Fun time (50), Blue Purple 5, 2019 mix
 5-27 mixed annuals Zinnia, salpiglossis, ^①marigold
 5-27 " Zinnias, salpiglossis, celosia
 5-27 Poblano (3), Inferno (3), Fehv Ozon⁽²⁾, Chinese Giant (6)
 5-28 Duke green bush bean; Contender Bush Bee
 5-28 Moon raker Carrot
 5-28 Malbec carrot
 5-28 Cyrillia, Touchstone, Falcon Beet (mix)
 5-31 Doe Hill Golden Bell³, classic eggplant, seivano, garden salsa, ^②Alma
 Carrots (late)
 6-19 Bolero carrot (w/ light Amstude Flavour) Prize Choy
 Poc Choi mixed

This list map of Ann's garden indicates the date everything was planted, and includes the species of many of the plants.



1 - TOMATO - Cipollas Pride

2 - BASIL - 3 plants

3 - CHIVES - garlic

4 - FENNEL, ROSEMARY, SAGE, THYME - 1 plant each

5 - MINT -

6 - SALAD BOWL - MESCULUN MIX

7 - PEPPER - LIPSTICK

8 - SPINACH - MALABAR

9 - OXALIS - MIX

Ann's balcony garden map for this year includes the size of the balcony, the (general) size of the containers, and a list of what is going in each container. Looks like some salsa and salads may be in the works!



2023 National Grange Garden Design Contest

STATEMENT OF INTENT

Share gardening experiences, large or small, that connect us to the larger picture of agriculture, growing and nurturing plants for a variety of purposes.

RULES

- A. The National Grange Garden Design Contest is open to everyone.
- B. All contest entries must be received by the National Grange Lecturer by **September 1, 2023**. Submit entries at: <http://bit.ly/grangegarden2023>
- C. All entries must be received electronically as a single PDF file. (If you need assistance creating a PDF file, please email National Grange Communications Director Philip Vonada at pvonada@nationalgrange.org)
- D. Groups and Divisions:
 1. Individual Junior Grange (age 5 – 14)
 - a. Container Garden
 - b. Raised Bed Garden
 - c. Ground Space Garden
 2. Individual Adult (age 14 +)
 - a. Container Garden
 - b. Raised Bed Garden
 - c. Ground Space Garden
 3. Group (all ages)
 - a. Container Garden
 - b. Raised Bed Garden
 - c. Ground Space Garden
- E. Definitions:
 - a. Raised Bed Garden: Raised beds are freestanding garden beds constructed above ground level. "Raised bed" means that the soil level in the bed is higher than the surrounding soil and implies a size small enough to work in without stepping onto planting area. Raised beds are enclosed with box-like frames to provide structural support and prevent erosion and may be constructed using a variety of materials. Beds can also be elevated for gardeners who want to avoid bending to the ground while working.
 - b. Container Garden: A container garden can be a single pot with one or more plants in it, or several containers with multiple plants in each or a single plant per container, or a mixture of containers with various configurations of plant mixtures. Containers may be pots made from a variety of materials, baskets, planters or other objects that work effectively as a home for garden plants.



2023 National Grange Garden Design Contest

- c. **Ground Space:** any area of a ground level space cordoned off for growing garden plants (fruits, vegetables, flowers and other plant materials). Plants must be directly planted into the soil. Configurations of this garden plot may be in rows, square foot or broadcast.
- F. Entries must include a written description that includes:
- Name of gardener, Group and Division (ex. Individual Adult: Container) Grange name, number and location, contact information including mailing address, email address, and phone number.
 - Purpose of the Garden: examples include purposes such as: herbs, produce for fresh use, produce for preserving, gifting, cut flowers, pollinators, etc.)
 - List of all plant varieties in the garden: (ex. Early Girl Tomato, Malabar Spinach,
 - Three photographs: one at the completion of planting, one mid-season and one in late August.
- G. Any entries received after the September 1, 2023 deadline will not be judged.
- H. Winners will be announced at the National Grange convention in Niagara Falls, New York.

PRIZES

- Monetary prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each Division.
- Ribbons will be awarded to all entrants.

ENTRY

- Submit entries at this link: <http://bit.ly/grangegarden2023>



JOIN US FOR A LECTURER'S FORUM!

What: A chance to share Grange programming & contests

When: February 28 at 8:30pm Eastern

Where: **On Zoom:** Meeting ID: 825 5731 0725 Code: 962144

Who: Anyone interested in Grange programming - not just lecturers