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EVALUATION AND GARDEN RECORDS

Annual vegetables and weeds grow quickly, but good gardening skills develop over many years. It's easy to make mistakes such as seeding spinach too late, so it flowers immediately, or planting a beefsteak variety tomato that doesn't mature in our cool Puget Sound area summers. Unfortunately, you must wait a whole year to get a second chance. For most of us, the only way to remember well and to learn from our mistakes is to keep good garden records and use them in planning for next season.

The information you gather can help you:
- Grow varieties that grow well and taste best and avoid the bad ones
- Plant things at the right time and in the right place and avoid previous mistakes
- Set up rotations that help you avoid disease and insect problems
- Get the most from fertilizer, compost and lime applications

To be useful, a garden "log" should record:
1. What you plant (crop, variety and seed company)
2. Dates crops were started and transplanted
3. What fertilizers and soil amendments were added
4. When and how much was harvested
5. Insect or disease problems
6. Personal opinion of crop quality

7. Ideas for what you'd like to try next year (otherwise, you'll never remember when the time comes)

Once you have a record of your garden's layout, schedule and performance, you can use it subsequent years to decide:
- What varieties did best and should be planted again and which were "losers"
- What should be planted where to keep the crops properly rotated.
- What amendments your soil needs
- Whether planting dates or quantities planted should be adjusted

On the back of this sheet is a log that you can use to keep a garden record.

Year: _____ **Bed:** _____ **Pre-plant amendments:** Lime _____

Fertilizer _____ Organic matter _____

CROP: Variety, seed company and amount planted (square feet, feet of row or # transplants)	DATES: Planted, thinned, fertilized, harvested (include amounts), etc.	COMMENTS: Problems, opinions and ideas for next year

Kennell 7/00