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<td>Feb. 23</td>
<td>Tips on Growing a Great Vegetable Garden</td>
<td>Tom Kalb, Extension horticulturist, NDSU</td>
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<td>March 2</td>
<td>Good Gardening Practices: Safe and Healthy Produce</td>
<td>Barbara Ingham, professor and Extension food safety specialist, University of Wisconsin-Madison</td>
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• Please complete the short online survey that will be emailed to you after today’s webinar. It will take just a couple minutes!
• Be sure to sign up for an opportunity to win a prize in the drawing. After submitting the survey, a form to fill out with your name/address will appear.

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Turn any Balcony, Patio, or Small Space into a Vegetable Garden

Don Kinzler, NDSU Extension agent – horticulture, Cass County
Big Yields in Small Spaces!
Why grow your own vegetables?

• Healthy diet
• Freshest produce
• Available at back door
• Fun
• Good exercise
Traditional Garden
- Rural yard
- Large urban lot

Small Space Garden
- Balcony, patio, deck
- Small yard
Location

• Check how much sunshine

✓ 6 to 8 hours = full sun
✓ 4 to 6 hours = part sun, part shade
✓ Less than 4 = shade
Vegetables produced from flowers – Full sunshine
  ✓ Tomato, pepper, squash, cucumbers, melons,

Edible root – Part sun
  ✓ Carrot, radish, potato, onion

Edible leaves – Tolerate shade
  ✓ Lettuce, spinach, kale, cabbage, herbs
Make a plan

• Plan on paper
• Choose vegetables you like
• Taller types in corners
• Shade-loving in shadows
• Stacking
Choose a container

• Must have drain holes

• A raised bed is a large container
Should we add drainage pebbles?

• Skip the rocks, pebbles and coffee filter
...containers...

- 12 inches in diameter or more
- Tomatoes require the size of a 5-gallon bucket
What soil or mix to use?

• A key to success

• The greatest garden or field soil works poorly in containers
Potting mix…

- Must retain moisture
- Must drain well

- Select high quality potting mix
- Raised garden mix
- Always moisten before using
Choose vegetable varieties wisely

• Container friendly

• Tag or description usually says
…Tomatoes

- “Determinate” varieties are more container-friendly

- “Indeterminate” varieties
Let’s plant!

• From seed
  ✓ Radish, carrot, peas, bean, lettuce, beets

• From transplants
  ✓ Tomato, pepper, cabbage family
How to plant

✓ Moisten mix the day before

✓ Fill container to within ½ inch of rim
• **Planting seeds**
  ✓ Broadcast or rows
  ✓ Cover to proper depth
  ✓ Firm gently

• **Planting Transplants**
  ✓ Slightly deeper than existing
  ✓ Don’t pack soil

• **Water gently and thoroughly**
How many plants per container?

- The Square Foot Gardening method is a great resource
- A raised bed is a large container
- Plants per 12” square
- https://squarefootgardening.org/method/
Each square is 12 inches

This gives an approximate number of plants to include in a 12 to 14-inch container.
When can we start?

- Cool season crops = April
  - Radish, onion, lettuce, spinach, peas, potato, carrot, cabbage

- Warm season crops = May 15-25
  - Tomato, pepper, eggplant, cucumber, melons, squash
Succession Planting

- Radish, spinach, lettuce, carrots
How to water

• Potting mix and watering are keys to success

• Consistent moisture is needed

• Avoid highly alkaline well water or water from a salt-type water softener
• When watering, water thoroughly
How often should I water?

- Depends on
  - Container size
  - Type of mix
  - Sun or shade
  - Wind/Temperature

- Might be daily in mid-summer

- More needed as plants age
How to fertilize

• Potting mix might contain slow release, lasts the season
• If not, add Osmocote
• Water-soluble
• Granular
• Follow label
Raised garden beds in small spaces

- Raised beds are just large containers
- Create in units 4 feet x 4 feet
- Square Foot Gardening method produces high yields in small space
At season’s end…

- Pull and discard plants
- Rake out roots
- Can we re-use the mix?
Let’s take a tour!
Caution: Falling pots
Ready…Set…Grow!
Thank you!

For more information, contact:

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