

Gardening—
Garden Grows
15 Kinds
Of Vegetables

74-Year-Old Cares
For Backyard Plot

By MARGUERITE SMITH

WON'T DDT kill aphids? That's the yearly question of beginning gardeners. No, alas, not all kinds. And aphids seem to be having a political convention this year to judge by the numbers getting together everywhere.

Rotenone dust is the easiest control for these pests that suck plant juices. But nicotine sulfate spray is more effective. Use one to two teaspoons in a gallon of water. Add a few soap grains and it will stick better.

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GARDEN biography: Mrs. E. F. Waits, 937 N. Sheffield Ave., learned to raise food a long time ago—in Tennessee.

"When my mother died she wanted us to keep the family together. I was the oldest of 13 children. So I went to work in the fields," Mrs. Waits recalls.

"But during the first World War the doctors said they needed me to help out with sick folks. I just used sense taking care of them, that was all. I'd had to quit school too early to learn much from books. So I read my doctor's discarded medical journals."

Here in Indianapolis Mrs. Waits turns her energies to gardening. Two years ago (she was then 72) she took care of three plots in the Flanner House project, raising six bushels of sweet potatoes, quantities of peanuts, even corn for her chickens. With 15 entries in one garden show she won 15 prizes.

Now she's "got enough canned for two years" so this summer she's content to keep her backyard popping with vegetables—15 kinds.

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SHE ALWAYS plans for summer-dry spells. "Start your garden early and plant deep. Then it will grow during drouth. There's always water deep in the soil. I keep cultivating, too. This backyard was like a rock, but I keep loosening it up. Plants can't grow when the ground is tight." (No wonder her favorite garden tool is a pick-axe.)

My thanks to Albert A. Moore, director of Flanner House Gardens, for telling me about Mrs. Waits.

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