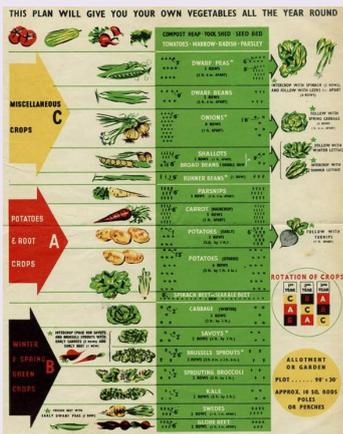


We'll Eat Again!

Food and Farming during the Second World War

2. Dig for Victory



Rutland County Museum

We'll Eat Again! Food & Farming During WW2

Waste Not, Want Not!

Rutland people had far more choice of food than those living in the cities. In rural areas people had an almost unlimited supply of free food. Hedgerow fruits were turned into jam or bottled. Hazelnuts, walnuts, chestnuts and mushrooms were collected. Rose hips were sold to chemists for making into rose hip syrup.

Then there were rabbits and hares. Farmers were happy to let people kill the rabbits and hares on their land because they ate and damaged their crops. There are many country families who remember living on rabbit pies and stewed apples for most of the war!



The Second World War saw a rapid expansion in backyard pig and poultry keeping. Pre-war planning controls were set aside which made it lawful to keep pigs, hens or rabbits. In 1944, 12% of urban houses, and 31% of houses in rural areas had livestock.



We'll Eat Again! Food & Farming During WW2

Waste Not, Want Not!



Communities were encouraged to form 'Pig Clubs' and keep pigs. When the pig was fully grown, it was killed under Ministry arrangements. The Ministry took half the meat for the national pool and the club members shared the other half. They had to give up part of their meat ration in exchange. By 1945, 241,500 pig club members were responsible for producing 141,913 pigs.

In 1940 an anti-waste campaign was introduced that encouraged people not to throw away anything that could be consumed. Reminders 'Not to Squander' were common in the form of posters and newsreels. Households were encouraged to save food scraps which could be fed to poultry and pig clubs.

People were reminded to not waste food and to use leftovers in stews and casseroles. In one broadcast to the nation, Lord Woolton, the Minister of Food appealed:

'If you are only eating what you need and not what you like and as much as you like, then you are helping to win the war.'

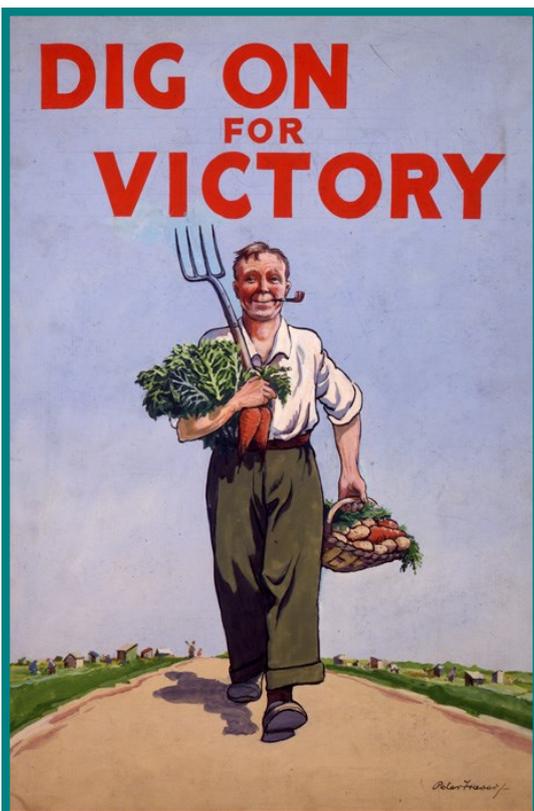


We'll Eat Again! Food & Farming During WW2

Dig for Victory

In October 1939 the Ministry of Agriculture launched one of the most memorable slogans of the whole conflict – ‘Dig for Victory’. People were urged to plant allotments in gardens and on every spare piece of land, such as parks, golf clubs, tennis courts and verges. Even the moat at the Tower of London was used.

Throughout the war the importance of ‘growing your own’ was promoted. In addition to the familiar Ministry of Agriculture ‘food flashes’ and posters, ‘Dig for Victory’ anthems were also introduced such as:



‘Dig! Dig! Dig! And your muscles will grow big

Keep on pushing the spade

Don't mind the worms

Just ignore their squirms

And when your back aches laugh with glee

And keep on diggin’

Till we give our foes a Wiggin’

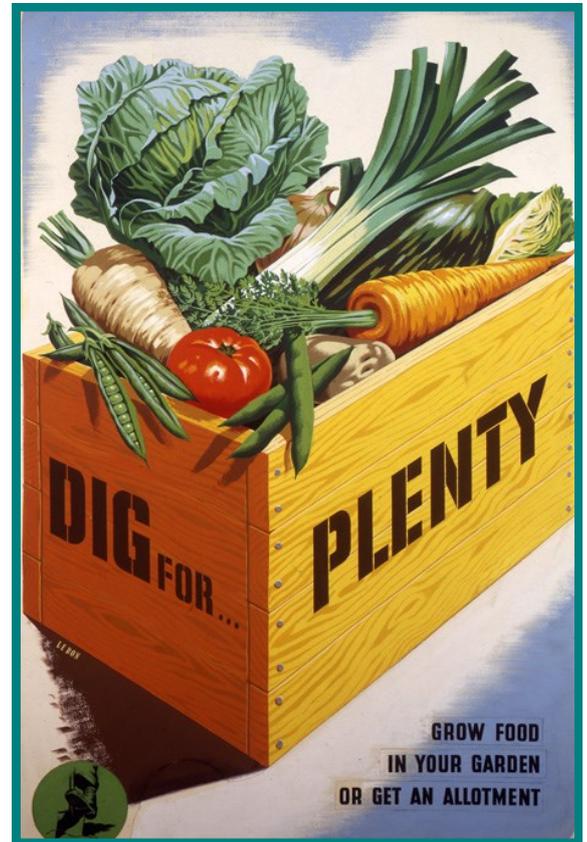
Dig! Dig! Dig! To Victory!



We'll Eat Again! Food & Farming During WW2

Dig for Victory

People were encouraged to grow what they liked to eat. The mainstay crops were potatoes, carrots, turnips, parsnips, runner, dwarf and broad beans, shallots, onions, tomatoes, marrows, radishes, parsley, cabbages, brussel sprouts, sprouting broccoli, kale, swedes, spinach and lettuce. The Ministry published a series of leaflets with tips and advice and a monthly 'Allotment and Garden Guide' was distributed in the latter part of the war.



Effort was made to promote good land management and recycling. Planting beds were raised to allow for deep rooting and the whole approach was organic. Plots made use of discarded household items. Egg cartons and toilet paper rolls were used as planters and old window frames made good cold frames.

The campaign was very successful. From 815,000 allotments in 1939 the number rose to 1,400,000 by 1943. During some years nearly a million tons of vegetables were grown.





Grow for *Winter* as well as *Summer*

DIG FOR VICTORY LEAFLET No.1. New Series

Vegetables for you and your family every week of the year. Never a week without food from your garden or allotment. Not only fresh peas and lettuce in June—new potatoes in July, but all the health-giving vegetables in **WINTER**—when supplies are scarce - - - —

**SAVOYS, SPROUTS, KALE,
SPROUTING BROCCOLI, ONIONS,
LEEKs, CARROTS, PARSNIPS and
BEET**

Vegetables all the year round
if you

**DIG WELL
AND CROP WISELY**



THIS PLAN WILL GIVE YOU YOUR OWN VEGETABLES ALL THE YEAR ROUND



COMPOST HEAP · TOOL SHED · SEED BED
TOMATOES · MARROW · RADISH · PARSLEY

MISCELLANEOUS CROPS
C



DWARF PEAS*
3 ROWS
(2 ft. 6 in. APART)



★ INTERCROP WITH SPINACH (2 ROWS) AND FOLLOW WITH LEEKS (4 ROWS)



DWARF BEANS
2 ROWS
(2 ft. 6 in. APART)



ONIONS*
8 ROWS
(1 ft. APART)



★ FOLLOW WITH SPRING CABBAGE (4 ROWS) (1 ft. 6 in. APART)



SHALLOTS
2 ROWS (1 ft. APART)
BROAD BEANS (DOUBLE ROW)



★ FOLLOW WITH WINTER LETTUCE
★ INTERCROP WITH SUMMER LETTUCE



RUNNER BEANS* (1 ROW)

POTATOES & ROOT CROPS
A



PARSNIPS
3 ROWS (1 ft. 2 in. APART)



CARROT (HALFCROP)
5 ROWS
(1 ft. APART)



POTATOES (EARLY)
3 ROWS
(2 ft. by 1 ft.)



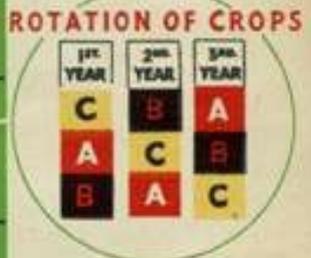
★ FOLLOW WITH TURNIPS (1 ft. APART)



POTATOES (OTHERS)
6 ROWS
(2 ft. by 1 ft. 2 in.)



SPINACH BEET OR SEAKALE BEET
3 ROWS



WINTER & SPRING GREEN CROPS
B

★ INTERCROP SPACE FOR SAVOYS AND BRUSSELS SPROUTS WITH EARLY CARROTS (3 ROWS) AND EARLY BEET (1 ROW)



SAVOYS*
2 ROWS (2 ft. by 2 ft.)



BRUSSELS SPROUTS*
2 ROWS (2 ft. 6 in. x 2 ft. 6 in.)



SPROUTING BROCCOLI
2 ROWS (2 ft. by 2 ft.)



KALE
2 ROWS (2 ft. by 2 ft.)

★ PRECISE BEET WITH EARLY DWARF PEAS (1 ROW)



SWEDES
2 ROWS (1 ft. 2 in. APART)



GLOBE BEET
2 ROWS (1 ft. 2 in. APART)

ALLOTMENT OR GARDEN
PLOT 90' x 30'
APPROX. 10 SQ. RODS
POLES OR PERCHES

