

Ol' Hoosier Farmer — May 4, 1977

By Jim Jones

We tuk a week off frum th' ofus t'other day an spent a glorious time with th' good wife plantin' an' doin' spring work aroun' th' place. Got th' early garden in includin' peas, cabbage, broccoli, carrots, beets, chard an' so on. Also transplanted a pile o' flower seeds in the ground. Had a good time diggin' in th' earth an' seein' things grow.

Set out a bunch o' strawberry plants a' few days ago-- replacin' ol' beds an' startin' new ones. Already lookin good. Th' onions an' garlic is up an' in fine shape an' the fruit trees is past their top o' bloomin' once again. So fer looks like a good spring. Wuz wantin' to git a little corn in th' groun' but rained us out so we will have to wait.

The greenhouse is full o' tomatoes, peppers an' more cabbage plants as well as th' young onions which will be transplanted shortly. Raised these from seed an' if they does as well as last years, they will be fine fer both eatin' an' keepin'.

Found th' wide row plantin' method is a lot faster then makin' individual rows an' putting furrows in. Jest broadcast th' seed over th' ground between strings to show th' limit o' th' row an' then cover with a rake. Makes it a lot faster. We spaced th' rows about 14" wide an' left 28" between them so th' tiller can go up and down to keep out weeds. Th' idear must work since Prairie Farmer sez th' big farmers is goin' to narrow row spacin' which is just about th' same as th' wide rows in th' garden.

With the cost o' stuff goin' up ever day an' all th' yakkin' about fuel shortages an' stuff, we thinks folks would do all they could to become as self-sufficient as possible. However, if our soil testin' work is any indication, considerably fewer folks are plantin' gardens then last year. Of course, many folks don't test soil ever year an' this is OK, but th' overall quantity is way off. We still thinks a garden is a fine investment an' plan to keep on it as long as we is able.

April is done fer an' May is here. Time to think about corn an' bean plantin, melons, squash, punkins, etc. So git yer seeds ready and get them in th' ground. Realize that in only 5 or 6 months winter will be here agin an' we'll have to eat what we raise now.

Wal, th' rain has slowed up today, but we are glad fer it--time to set a spell an' watch things grow. If man will work in harmony with natcher as th' Almighty intended, we would be lots better off.