

Q77A

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND
DEPARTMENT OF FOLKLORE
TRADITIONAL GARDENING
Q77A

You can help us to preserve the folklore of Newfoundland.

This traditional material is part of the unwritten history of the province which the university is attempting to record.

Every community is rich in many areas of folklore, so if you have any information on the subject in which we are interested or can get it from someone else, please find answers for our questions.

General Instructions

1. Write down the information exactly as you learned it or as it was told to you. Use the exact words and phrasing of the informant. Do not attempt to "correct" the form of the informant.
2. Write in black or blue ink, or type (double-spaced).
3. Write on one side of the paper only.
4. Number pages in the upper right hand corner.
5. Complete the following information requested at the end of each item, as illustrated.

Informant's name	age	occupation
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Home community	Bay	religion
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Learned from	community	relationship
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When

Student's name	age	course number	home community
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St. John's address	date
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6. Indicate clearly if you or your informant want any names withheld.

Memorial University of Newfoundland
Folklore and Language Archive
Traditional Gardening
Q77A

The purpose of this questionnaire is to gather information about traditional methods of gardening, particularly growing vegetables, in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Answer on a separate sheet using the numbers given below for your replies. Give details. Drawings or photographs would be appreciated.

These questions suggest some points about which we need information. Please feel free however to write about any aspect of growing or storage even though they are not covered by the questions.

I LAYOUT AND LOCATION OF GARDENS

1. During what years did the family keep a garden? Give approximate dates.
2. Did the family have more than one garden?
3. Where was each located?
4. What was grown in each -- herbs, flowers, vegetables, hay, etc.?
5. Was there a separate garden for hay? Where?
6. What was the size of each garden?
7. What kind of ground was the garden located on -- level or sloped?
8. What kind of soil was considered best?
9. Who did the various jobs in the garden such as plowing, weeding, etc.? Were specific persons given separate tasks? Were tasks assigned according to time of year, age or sex? Explain.

II PREPARATION AND PLANTING

1. FERTILIZERS

Were any of the following used as fertilizers?
Caplin, sea weed, manure, human waste, lime,
wood ashes.

What other fertilizers were used?

Was compost made? How?

Were combinations of fertilizers used?

Were certain fertilizers used only on certain crops?

When and how were the various fertilizers applied?

Who applied the fertilizers?

Have there been changes in the kinds of fertilizers used?

2. PLOWING/DIGGING

Was the garden dug or plowed? With what?

If the garden was on a slope, was it plowed up and down, or across?

Who did the plowing or digging?

3. SEEDS AND STARTS

Were seeds purchased obtained from a neighbor, or grown? Explain, for each crop.

Where were cabbage plants obtained? How were they started?

Who prepared seeds and starts?

4. PLANTING

What are the times for planting each crop?

Did the old people follow special signs for planting? Explain.

Were the vegetables planted in rows or beds? Describe.

Were the beds raised?

If so, why?

Who did the planting?

III. CULTIVATION AND PROTECTION

1. Were any fertilizers applied after the plants appeared?

2. Was the garden watered? Explain how, when, with what and by whom.

3. Describe the weeding process. Were the weeds hoed or pulled? What was done with the weeds then?

4. Was weeding done in dry weather or wet weather? Why?
5. Who did the weeding?
6. What kinds of insects, worms, grubs and other garden pests killed or damaged what crops? Explain.
7. What was done to control garden pests before chemical pesticides became available? Are chemicals used? What chemicals? And for what crops?
8. Was salt or sea water used on cabbage? When? Why?
9. Did potatoes suffer from wart or canker? What was done about it?
10. Did cabbage and turnip suffer from club root (hurl foot)? What was done about it.
11. What other diseases threatened the crops?
12. Were there other dangers to the crop which required special protection or remedy? Explain.
13. Who looked after crop protection and remedy?

IV. THE HARVEST

1. What were the first vegetables from the garden that were eaten? Was there any special meal? If so did it have a name?
2. Describe harvest time.
3. Who did the harvesting?
4. What was done with the plant wastes (such as potato and turnip tops) after the harvest?
5. Was anything done after the harvest to prepare the garden for winter?

V. STORAGE

1. How were vegetables and other crops stored?
2. Was a root cellar used? Where was it located? Describe its construction, using drawings if possible.
3. What were the chief ways different vegetables were prepared for storage? (salting, drying, canning, pickling, freezing).

4. Describe how potatoes were saved from year to year.
5. Was cabbage salted in pork pickle?
6. Who did the preparation for storage?
7. Were enough vegetables grown to last until the next harvest?
8. Was the hay put under some shelter? What was it called? Describe, with drawings or photographs if possible. If not, how was it stored?

Whatever information you can give on any of all of these topics would be very helpful. Thank you.