

VICTORY GARDEN

Encouraged by such slogans as “Food Fights for Freedom” and “You can Shorten the War with Food,” and by the reality of higher food prices, thousands of Virginians learned how to plant and tend tomatoes, beans, beets, onions, corn, cabbages, potatoes, and other vegetables. Even city dwellers were encouraged to grow vegetables or herbs in backyards and on plots of public land. By 1944, 96 percent of Albemarle County residents were growing at least some of their own food. The chairman of Charlottesville’s Victory Garden Committee had a weekly forum and radio program and wrote a column in the local newspaper. Boy Scouts and other organized groups started their own gardens.

Much of this additional food had to be canned for later consumption. Home demonstration clubs gave instructions in how to preserve food.

ACTIVITY

You have a five-foot by six-foot plot of land and a family of four. What would you plant in your Victory Garden? Design a garden for your family and write an explanation of why you planted what you did.

*See December 1985 *Cobblestone Magazine* p. 24-25 (Victory Garden Game).