

Spring is the beginning of happy times for me.
by CC Huffhines

Cold , cold weather has ended, heavy coats and gloves are no longer needed, iris are blooming with brilliant yellows and reds, birds seem to sing happier songs now that winter is past. New vegetable and flower catalogs flood my mail, and create new ideas for my garden.

I have laid out my plans for my summer garden. Seeds have been purchased. This year I plan new vegetables, such as Lima beans, with which I have no past experience but I have been carefully studying the process during the cold months. (My past experience is with bush and pole green beans).

Living in Colorado has taught me that growing tomatoes is vastly different than in Texas ... the growing season is much shorter, it requires you to begin growth of the tomato seeds inside the house, then transplant once the weather gets warmer.

I have only a small raised garden in Windsor Gardens' east garden space...5 ft wide x 11 ft long. I plant only seeds, with the exception of tomatoes and bell peppers which I start growing on my condo window ledges. My plan is basically the square foot method, whereby you break up the surface with squares. This permits larger number of plants in each sq. foot space. This year I enlarged the measurements into 18 inch x 12 inch spaces. I have crowded a total of 25 plants into these small spaces and look forward to an abundance of vegetables at the end of summer.

The sq. ft. spaces run down both long sides of the garden. Down the middle space, flowers have been planted. At one end, a herb garden has been planted. This large planting is ambitious. Success or failure will be instructive to me and my gardening ability.

I planted lettuce and spinach last fall. They survived the winter and we have been eating them. Delicious!