

**Northern Neck Farm Museum Demonstration Garden**  
**Developed and Maintained**  
**by Northern Neck Master Gardeners**

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**The demonstration vegetable garden at the Northern Neck Farm Museum near Burgess is one of several demonstration gardens maintained by Northern Neck Master Gardeners (NNMG) and produces a variety of vegetables and fruits. Each week during the growing season, the harvest is delivered to the Healthy Harvest Food Bank in Warsaw.**



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**The demonstration vegetable garden at the Northern Neck Farm Museum began as a NNMG project around 2009. The garden has been expanded and improved upon, every year since, all through the efforts NNMG volunteers with cooperation and assistance of the NN Farm Museum.**



**In 2020, the garden yielded 1,500 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables for the Food Bank. This year, as of the end of September, the garden has produced more than 1,200 pounds of produce, and still producing.**





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**Our work typically begins in late March or early April.**

**This section of garden we recently made over with a border of cinder blocks as one example of weed and grass control.**

**The top picture is of planting vegetable transplants the first of April and the bottom picture shows the growth after only about 2.5 weeks.**



**This plot last year was just an open plot of ground with no border. We had a problem with nematodes attacking our squash and sweet potatoes planted there last year. This year we decided to rotate this bed with more nematode resistant cold weather crops, like kale, spinach, collards and lettuce.**



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Here are two more examples of vegetable growing beds.

The top photo is a typical raised bed. This one is 6 ft x 20 ft. with 4x4 post with cattle panels for climbing vegetables, like pole beans, peas, cucumbers or squash to utilize vertical space for growing.

The bottom photo with is a typical in-ground bed bordered by cedar boards, to assist with control of encroaching grass and weeds from grass lawn type paths.



The green white tipped t-post in the bottom photo are used extensively for supporting plants like tomatoes and peppers.

You can see in both examples the black piping that is part of our slow drip tape water system that is on a timer and fed by a water collection cistern, buried down at the museum barn. Water is collected off of the metal barn roof.



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Here is another close up of the drip tape water system installed in some of our beds.

The twine is part of our weaving method for holding up tomato plants. As they grow, we weave more twine higher up the t-post so the plants don't bend over from weight of the tomato fruit.



Our typical beds are about 4 ft x 30 ft approx.

Your home back yard garden doesn't have to be this large.

Start small, perhaps with containers. Expand your garden as you gain confidence. Keep it simple at first.



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**Another example of weed control, using straw to assist in maintaining moisture and controlling weeds.**

**We have found the typical tomato cages work better for smaller plants like peppers and the t-post work better for holding up larger plants like tomatoes, okra etc.**



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**Use some sort of fencing for climbing varieties so you can get more vegetables growing in a small space.**

**Here we have kale, peas, collards, basil and tomatoes all in an area of about 4ft by 4 ft.**

**Straw is used as a ground cover to retain moisture and help with weed control.**



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**Example of pole beans growing vertically on cattle panels to save garden space.**

**Vertical growing space can also make it easier to harvest, rather than bending over all the time!**



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**Another example of growing a lot of vegetables  
in a small amount of space.**

**The front 1/3 of this bed has pole beans,  
arugula, onions, potatoes and radishes; plus  
marigolds for pest control and beauty.**



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**Growing a variety of flowers in and around your vegetable garden promotes beneficial insects for pest control and pollination.**



**We have one large bed devoted to a variety of flowers, providing a bounty of blossoms all through the growing season.**



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**Your garden will attract all kinds of life.**

**So, Just get started!**



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**A big part of our garden life is record keeping. Recording what we plant, when we plant it, what amendments are used, rainfall, and harvest results.**

**When you start out, don't get bogged down in the details. Label what you plant so you know where things are and just plant.**

**As you gain experience and confidence, you can get into more detail.**



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**Just get started!**

**A small space can give you a bounty of fresh food all year long.**



**Use what  
you have  
to get  
started.**



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**Take time to visit our demonstration gardens all over the Northern Neck. Check out our web site at <https://nnmg.org> for more information about our organization and activities.**

**The NN Farm Museum demonstration garden is located at 12705 Northumberland Highway.**

**We are usually, weather depending, at our Farm Museum Garden on Tuesday mornings, April through October from 8:30-10:30am.**

**All vegetables and fruit are donated to Healthy Harvest Food Bank in Warsaw.**

