

FOR RELEASE:

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## GARDENING POINTERS

COLLEGE STATION, February

---High cost of living and the

low price of a vegetable garden makes home gardening a smart move this year, say Extension horticulturists of the Texas A. and M. College.

Giving pointers on February and March plantings, the horticulturists say that such vegetables as English peas, beets, carrots, spinach, lettuce, Irish potatoes, sweet corn and cabbage should be planted early. These are cool season plants, and may be planted now in Central, East and West Texas. In the southern part of the state, it may be advisable to substitute other plants, such as mustard or Swiss chard, for these cool season vegetables.

The horticulturists warn gardeners not to plant the entire garden now. Space should be left for tomato plants, pepper plants, butter beans, okra and eggplants. These vegetables can be started now in a plant bed, however, and given protection on cold days. Six or eight weeks later they'll be ready to transplant in the open garden. This practice will give the slow-growing, frost-tender plants a good head start, and make it possible for the gardener to have them out in the garden and producing vegetables from six weeks to two months earlier than usual.

Home gardeners can always call on county offices of the Extension Service for help on any phase of gardening, the horticulturists say.