A Birds-Eye View of Market Gardening



What is a Market Garden?

just 1 1/2 acres or less). Characterized by intensive beds and multiple high value crops/bed/year Takes advantage of season extension and often goes year round.

- Less than 3 acres of cultivated land (most
- Usually very diverse eggs not in 1 basket.



Is This the Only Model?

No! There's no "one size fits all" If you have access to lots of land and tractor availability, then go for it! But, I think the Market Gardening model fits very nicely with the SOP model





Families working together (not a need for lots of outside help)
Agricultural Evangelism
Great way to build relationships





 Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, "Follow Me " IVIC.

GW 363.2



GW 363.3 / MH 143

seen...

 There is need of coming close to the people by personal effort. If less time were given to sermonizing, and more time were spent in personal ministry, greater results would be



Advantages: Less land needed Less water needed Less equipment needed Less STRESS needed (not so overwhelming) More people can make a living off the land



Keys to Success:

1. Intensive production -(multiple crops each year) – tight spacing – beds rather than rows – focus on high value crops





2. Highly fertile soil - get soil tested - amend as recommended - grow cover crops - make compost - Put more in than you are taking out





3. Season Extension - row covers - low tunnels - hoophouses - transplants (most everything transplanted)



4. Efficiency – Use specialized tools – functional layout - standardization of space and materials. – work smarter not harder



5. Direct Sales - Eliminate the middlemen - Farmer's Market - CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) - High-end restaurants (Pre-COVID) Some finding success with wholesale (local grocers, etc.)





6. Planning

- Know how much money you need to make
- Know how much you need to plant
- Know when it needs to be planted
- Have a succession of plantings to keep a continuous harvest.



Size of Garden:

 "Always tend the smallest amount of land possible, but tend it exceptionally well." At least one full-time worker per 1/2 acre Income potential of \$100,000+ per acre!



Location

 Ideally within 1 hour's drive of a major Good water source Good sun exposure Good soil Fairly level

metropolitan area - if growing perishables



Garden Layout: Beds 30" wide & 100' long (or something that easily goes into 100) Pathways 12"-18" wide Blocks of beds - for crop rotation purposes. We like 8 beds per block/pad





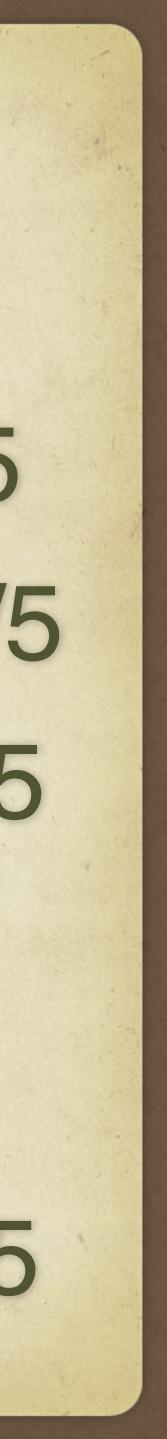
High Value Crops: Curtis Stone's Crop Value Rating (CVR) - Short days to maturity (60 or less) - High yield per linear foot (1/2 lb.) - High price/pound (min. \$4/lb.) - Long harvest period (4 month min.) - Popularity (high demand/low market saturation)



Crops With High CVR:

 Arugula - CVR 5/5 Beets - CVR 4/5 Carrots - CVR 4/5 Kale - CVR 4/5 Lettuce - CVR 5/5

 Radishes - CVR 4/5 Baby Kale - CVR 5/5 Salad Mix - CVR 5/5 Turnips - CVR 5/5 Spinach - CVR 5/5 Microgreens - CVR 4/5
 Tomatoes - CVR 3/5



Infrastructure Needs(?): Heated greenhouse for seed starting Washing area - cement slab with roof and 3 bay sink or feed troughs Walk-in cooler Hoophouse (or 2 or 3) Water for washing area and irrigation Deer fencing





Specialized Equipment:

- Broadfork
- BCS with attachments (or small tractor)?
- Wheel hoe
- Quality hand tools
 Precision seeders
 Greens harvester



Start-Up Costs:

 Eliot Coleman - \$15,000 (1995) - Jean-Martin Fortier - \$39,000 (2014) Daniel Mays - \$30,000 yr. 1, \$70,000 for yrs. 2-4 (2020) Whatever God gives you....



Where Do You Go From Here?

living doing this. (Ideally a few years!) Tour farms Go to conferences Start growing Make sure God is leading you!

Read/Watch/Listen to recommended resources. Spend time working with people who are making a

