

## **Gardening Know-How**

This was the first year that Frank planted a garden. He was delighted by the results of his first year.

Frank made a bed in a part of the yard that got a lot of sun. He turned over his dirt. He planted carrots, garlic, turnips, beets, and radishes. He had started from seeds and he kept track with the calendar on his phone of the dates he had planted his seeds. The packets of seeds gave estimates of the time plants would need before it was time to harvest them.

Carrots need 50-60 days before it is time to dig them up. Turnips need 40-55 days. Frank had put chicken wire around his bed to prevent squirrels and other visitors from disturbing his garden.

The only plants that were not a triumph were the tomatoes. The tomato plants had done well and grown high. Frank was excited to see hard green tomatoes

growing from the plants. He waited and saw the small green tomatoes grow bigger and begin to look red and ripe.

But the birds had been waiting too. One morning he walked out to find all his tomatoes gone or half eaten.

Frank talked with Nan on the phone. Nan was an avid gardener. "That happened to me my first time too," she laughed. "Come over tomorrow and I'll show you how to make chicken wire tubes to protect your tomatoes. Next year, those birds are going to be out of luck!"