

Victory Gardens by the Numbers

- Roughly **one half** of all American families had a victory garden during World War II.
- There were at least **20 million** victory gardens covering more than **20 million** acres of American soil by 1943.
- **40%** of the nation's produce was supplied by victory gardens by 1944.
- American families had grown approximately **8 million** tons of food by the time the war ended in 1945.

Americans first planted victory gardens during America's participation in World War I (1917–1918). This depiction of Liberty sowing seeds comes from a World War I poster.

Courtesy of the National Museum of American History, Archives Center, Princeton University Poster Collection



“Garden for Victory!”

This garden is inspired by the victory gardens of World War II.

During America's involvement in World War II (1941–1945), the Victory Garden Program strove to reduce demand for commercially grown vegetables, packaging materials, and transportation needs by encouraging Americans to grow their own produce and preserve and can their surplus harvest. This made more food and materials available for the armed forces and programs that supported America's Allies. By empowering people to grow their own food, victory gardens made Americans feel part of a greater cause.



Diana Hopkins, daughter of presidential advisor Harry Hopkins, tends the victory garden planted by first lady Eleanor Roosevelt on the South Lawn of the White House in 1943.

Courtesy of the Associated Press



Courtesy of the Library of Congress



Courtesy of the Library Company of Philadelphia

Visit the *Within These Walls* exhibition on Floor 2 of the National Museum of American History to explore the story of Mary Scott and her family, who planted a victory garden and preserved vegetables in Ipswich, Massachusetts, during World War II.



Smithsonian Gardens