



Vegetable Gardening Success.....

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Make it Beautiful and Productive

Start with a Plan – Grow what you Like – and Try some new things
What's economical, nutritious, and fits your growing goal

Build a Healthy Foundation to Reduce on-going Maintenance

Dealing with less-than-ideal soil
Amending
Lasagna and Hugelkultur (recycle and improve soil – less water and fertilizer)
Greiten Technique (improve soil, compost and rotate)

Minimize Maintenance to Maximize Time and energy –

Keep tools and supplies handy and easy to transport
Ergonomic tools
Make it fun and social event & take breaks
Raised Beds & elevated Gardens & Containers

Maximize space and Increase Beauty

Think Substitutions

Edible Groundcovers – strawberries, thyme, Swiss Chard
The Next Layers – greens, herbs, tomatoes and more
Go Vertical – trellis vining plants to save space, reduce disease – sling large heavy fruit
 annual vines like pole beans, cucumbers...
 Perennial vines – Kiwi, Grapes, Hops
Shrub and Tree Substitutes
 Rhubarb, Raspberries (Raspberry Shortcake), Baby cakes raspberries
 Blueberries (jelly bean, peach sorbet)
 Apples, peaches and pears
 Espalier, train over arbor. Urban Apple – upright & narrow
Interplanting – plant short season veggies inbetween long season veggies
Succession Planting – (double cropping) replant row once it is harvested
 Lettuce, followed by beans followed by radishes

Manage the harvest for productivity and Aesthetics

- Harvest when mature - Regular harvesting keeps plants producing
- Cabbage – remove just the head when mature, 4 or 5 smaller heads will form
 - Lettuce – harvest outer leaves when 4 to 6 inches long – will keep producing
 - Broccoli – harvest head and allow sprouts to form , harvest and use sprouts
 - Pole beans – save space and an extra harvest

Safe Pest Management while growing a beautiful productive landscape

Let Nature manage the pests
Sanitation
Pluck, Drop and Stomp insect management that kids love
Barriers and Traps & Natural Products

A Few Basics for Growing Veggies

Sun: Full sun (preferably 8 hours or more) – eat the flowers & fruit
Part Sun (4 to 6 hours) – root crops (radishes, carrots,beets...)
Shade (4 hours) – leafy cops (lettuce, chard, spinach...)
Soil: Moist well drained

Fertilize: Soil test

Low N, slow release in spring before planting and mid summer if needed

Water: one inch per week – adjust for weather

Waterwise strategies – rain barrels, mulch, Drip irrigation and soaker hoses

A Few Tips for the more popular Veggies

Tomato Wait for warm soil and air to move transplants into the garden or Jump Start

Trench Tomatoes only - Trench tall leggy plants to encourage rooting

Grow sprawled, staked, towered, hanging, 3 to 5 gallon container , hanging basket, space 24-36"

Determinate- grows certain height and stop – containers,

Indeterminate – grows, flowers and fruits until frost kills (pinch tips late season)

Peppers See tomatoes for when, plant at same depth growing in container

Grow in ground or 2 to 3 gallons container, space 18" apart, Sweet, Hot, Ornamental

Harvest: 60 to 70 days – fruits firm and fully colored

Eggplant - See tomatoes for when , in ground or 2 to 3 gallon containers, space 18" apart

Harvest: 70 to 80 (full size fruit, glossy before skin dulls, leaves thumb print), Hansel & Gretel

Potato Plant seeds (tuber divisions) in spring

Grow: In rows and hills in ground, raised beds or containers, space 12"

Harvest: 80 to 140 days, new potatoes any size, storing tuber full size, tops dry

Beans Plant several weeks before tomato and eggplants and late plantings

Harvest: 50 to 80, snap before seeds swell and show, dry (outer shell dry)

Peas: Plant early Spring or mid to late summer for fall harvest (need cooler temps)

Harvest: 60-70 days (edible– swollen/no seed showing, peas – pod bright, swollen, peas full-size)

Lettuce, Spinach and Greens Plant early Spring-late season fall harvest, most thrive in cooler temps

Grow: in containers (mixed with spring and fall flowers, window boxes), in ground, mixed borders

Harvest: outer leaves of leafy crops when 4-6", head (head loose and firm)

Cabbage/ Broccoli /Cauliflower Plant Early to Mid Spring and mid season for fall harvest

Harvest: cabbage head full sized and firm – cut, leaving lower leaves for additional heads

Broccoli - flowerhead full size, before buds open (leave stem for re-sprouting)

Cauliflower- blanch when head is size of quarter – ready in 5 to 7 days

Cucumber: Plant when air and soil are warm or jump start the season

Grow: sprawled on ground in rows or hills or trained on support or in container

Harvest: sweet pickles (1.5 to 2.5"), dills (3-4") slicing (6-9" skin bright green), burpless (10-12")

Squash and Melons Plant when air and soil warm, additional plantings through mid summer

Grow: sprawled on ground in rows or hills, in container, on support Sling large fruit

Harvest: Summer squash fruit are 6 to 10 inches long or 3 to 6 inches diameter

Winter squash full size, rind is hard, portion touching ground is cream or orange

Melons - 65 to 90 days, fruit full size, rind is dull, ground spot cream, tendrils dry & curled

Onions Plant sets in early/mid spring, transplants late spring – through summer

Harvest: sets for green onions 6-8" tall, storage onions best from plants, harvest when tops fall

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