Vegetable gardening

Garden planning calendar
View planning calendar.
✓ January – February: Order seed catalogs.
✓ February – March: Order seeds.
✓ March - April: Prepare the soil when it is dry enough.
✓ April: Plant cool season vegetables. (Check local planting dates.)
✓ May: Plant warm season vegetables after danger of frost.

Where to put your garden
View planning your garden tip sheet.
✓ Convenient to your home and close to a water source.
✓ Where the soil is good and free from toxins.
✓ Sunny, level spot (six to eight hours of sunlight)
  • Stay away from trees and shrubs.
  • Avoid north-facing slopes and low areas.

Build your garden soil
Learn how to build your soils.
✓ Add organic matter every year.
  • Test your soil for acidity (pH) and nutrients.
✓ Use appropriate amount and type of fertilizer.
✓ Prepare your garden soil for planting and avoid compacting it.

Plan your garden on paper
Create a garden layout.
✓ Start small (20’ x 10’) and expand with more experience.
  • Plant tall vegetables on the north side.
  • Give each plant the space it needs.
✓ Draw garden map and include:
  • Specific location of each vegetable crop.
  • Spacing between plants and rows.
  • Vegetables your family likes to eat.
  • Planting dates.

Plant your vegetable garden
✓ Buy and plant seeds and transplants according to your plan.
✓ Harden off your transplants.
✓ Plant when the soil is warm enough for your vegetable crops.
✓ Use mulch, and maybe row covers.

Keep your plants growing
✓ Thin plants to increase harvest.
✓ Keep the garden weeded and manage pest problems.
✓ Add nutrients in the summer when needed.
✓ Water when the soil is dry.
Harvest vegetables

✓ Check your garden often; you’ll enjoy it more!
✓ Harvest vegetables at their peak flavor and nutrition level.
✓ Use as soon as possible.

Notes: