

Home Vegetable Gardening

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Vegetable Gardening is Cool Again!



What type of Garden?

- Container
- Raised Beds
- Field Grown



Site Selection for the Garden

- Choose a good soil type – sandy loam
- Know the soil fertility
- What is the slope of the site?
- What is the internal soil drainage?
- Do you have enough hours of sunlight?
 - 6-8 minimum.
- Is it convenient for you?
- Water nearby?



Planning the Garden



- Adapt to the available space
- A garden may be small: on a patio
- A garden may be large: in a field
- It should only be as large as you can handle



Start small and build on your success!

Prepare the site well before planting

- Have soil tested.
- Incorporate organic matter, if possible.



Liming the Soil

- It takes time , 8 to 12 weeks, for agricultural lime to have an effect!



Blossom end rot of tomatoes





3 to 4 inches of compost,
will loosen the soil for
better water penetration,
drainage, aeration & root
growth

How Much Fertilizer?

- Varies by what is being grown.
- Type:
 - Water Soluble
 - Granular
 - Slow release



Fertilizer for The Garden



- Analysis

- 10% Nitrogen
- 20% Phosphorus
- 10% Potassium (Potash)
- Remember , You don't have to use all of the bag at one time!

Where to plant

- Plant taller vegetables to the north
- Shorter vegetables south
- Perennials to the side



Practice Crop rotation & sanitation



Grow what your family will eat



Raised beds



Tomatoes in containers



The Square Foot Garden

Small things in small places; big things off to the side where they will not shade out the small things



Terraced



Make pathways to avoid walking in the garden



Be able to harvest from one side or the other.



Use Transplants to Shorten Production Time to Harvest



Choosing Quality Transplants

- Root Volume is important



Growing Your Own Transplants



Grafted Tomatoes



Do Not Let The Roots Dry Out!



Start With Good Quality Seeds



Mulches for the Garden

- Conserve Soil Moisture
- Increases Soil Temperature Early
- Reduces Soil Temperature Later
- Helps to Control Plant Diseases
- Prevents Soil Erosion





Weed Control



Watering

- Water is most critical.
- What type:
 - Drip Irrigation
 - Overhead
 - Soaker Hoses



Know how much water your yard gets



Soil Solarization Can help Disinfect the Soil

- Work the soil 12” deep in July or August
- Water and cover with clear plastic
- Leave plastic in place for 4 to 6 weeks
- Soil temperatures will reach 135 degrees and pasteurize the soil.
- Kills many weed seeds, insects, nematodes and plant diseases.



Soil solarization



Stakes or support



Warm Season & Cool Season



Cool Season Veggies



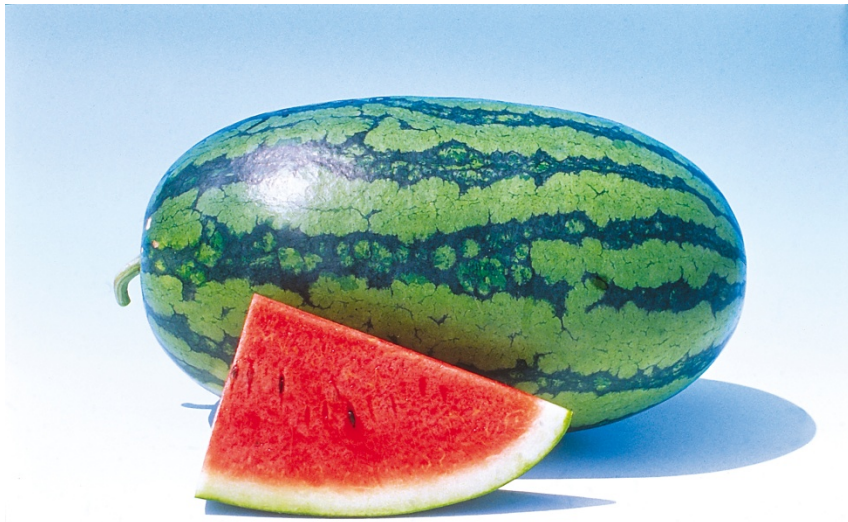
Short Season or long?



Male versus female flowers



Cucurbits take space



Tomatoes



Cold Frames and Plastic Covered Tunnels Extend the Season



Use a Hot Cap or Cloche To Protect Young Plants



Wall of Water



Animal Pests



Physical barriers



Monitor for insects and diseases



IPM in the Home Garden (Integrated Pest Management)

- Look for the Problem and Identify
- Know the Biology of Host & Pest
- Start With Biological Controls
- Use Host Plant Resistance
- Adapt the Culture of the Host
- Then Use Pesticides

Disease Control Strategies

- Maintain Good Air Circulation
- Reduce the Hours of Leaf Wetness
- Water Early in the Morning
- Use Mulches to Prevent Soil Splashing
- Remove Diseased Material When Dry
- Improve Spray Coverage



Beneficial Insects



Start small and build on success



Enjoy the fruits of your labor!

