

## STARTING YOUR FALL GARDEN

*A cool fall morning is hard to imagine right now, but you can have a productive garden if you start planning and planting in August. Many experienced gardeners are familiar with fall gardening, but if you haven't yet had the pleasure, now is the time to try your hand at it!*

Late planted crops mean fewer insects and disease, less perspiration, and an extended harvest season in milder climates. Some fall-planted crops will be ready to adorn your Thanksgiving table. Some will grow slowly through the winter without bolting and be ready to harvest in spring. Plus, some veggies (like broccoli, brussels sprouts, and kale) are sweeter when touched by frost!

- Start from transplants to get a jump on the season. Buy short-season varieties, which are sold this time of year. The key is to let them reach their full maturity before the killing frost.
- Water regularly and mulch with compost or a good, rich organic amendment. Planting veggies in a raised bed will improve drainage and reduce rot.
- Hot weather encourages broccoli and spinach to bolt (flower). If you must, cool them down with row covers, sheer white fabric, or even an umbrella during a hot spell.
- Control slugs and snails in August and September, especially if you mulch your plants.
- Try using a cold frame to extend the harvest in colder climates.

Here are some good veggies to try:

- Beets
- Broccoli
- Brussels sprouts
- Cabbage
- Carrots
- Cauliflower
- Chard
- Collards
- Kale
- Kohlrabi
- Lettuce/Salad Greens
- Asian Greens
- Leeks
- Mustard greens
- Parsnips
- Rhubarb
- Scallions (young onions)
- Spinach

Grow cool-season aromatic herbs, too! In addition to the "Scarborough Fair herbs" (parsley, sage, rosemary & thyme), try dill, garlic chives, chervil, arugula, and fennel.