

STARTING YOUR VEGGIE GARDEN

Congratulations on your decision to grow your own food! Here are some tips to help you get growing:

1. Grow what you like to eat.
2. Assess your site: Sunny, shady, weedy, heavy/sandy soil, etc.? Remember, you can also grow edibles in your ornamental border, up trellises and in containers.
3. Choose varieties that will work in those areas and with the season. Some veggies grow better in cooler weather (spring & fall) while others need the heat of summer.
4. Use both seeds and starts/transplants (young plants that have already been started for you). You will always have veggies ready to eat/share!
5. Start small ~ gardening is about sampling and experimenting and FUN

Light: Most veggies need good sunlight, at least 6 hours. South or west facing locations are ideal.

Temperature Readiness: Ground temperature vs. air temperature is a better indicator of readiness for root growth - usually over 55° F for summer crops. Soil thermometers are one of your most valuable and least expensive tools.

Soil: Rich (lots of organic material), well-draining, weed-free soil. Raised Beds: Great way to grow because of easy access, better drainage and weed control. We recommend Raised Bed Planting Mix amended with compost. In Ground: Depending on your garden soil, amend with a rich organic compost gently worked into the top 4-5 inches. Remove weeds, but watch out for earthworms - they're your friends!

Fertilizer: Good organic veggie fertilizer. Ask us for suggestions.

Watering: Although different veggies may have slightly different needs, most like regular deep watering early in the morning, with time to dry out slightly in between waterings. This is where well-draining soil helps. Soil should be barely moist, not soggy!

Rule of (Green)Thumb: Water the soil/root zone, not the foliage. Water settling on foliage may encourage fungal diseases. Using a watering wand and/or soaker hose helps you control where you want the water for the most efficient and effective use.