

FACT SHEET

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Planning Your Vegetable Garden

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If you want fresh, nutritious vegetables for your meals, plus wholesome recreation for the entire family, try vegetable gardening. Almost any gardener can have grow-it-yourself vegetables with the newer mulches that help maintain a nearly weed-free garden.

Location

When selecting your garden site, consider (1) convenience to the home, (2) fertile, well-drained soil with slight slope for surface water drainage, (3) availability of water for supplemental irrigation, (4) adequate sunlight and (5) lack of competition from trees and shrubs. Many gardeners will have to compromise on some of these points because of limited land area.

If part of the proposed garden is shaded by trees or buildings during part of the day, grow leafy vegetables (greens) that can stand more shade than the root vegetables. Root vegetables (beets, radishes, turnips) can stand more shade than the vegetable fruit plants such as tomatoes and peppers. Plant vegetable fruit plants in optimum sunlight. If you must plant your garden near trees or shrubs, extra water and fertilizer or a raised bed will help eliminate serious competition from tree roots.

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What to Grow

The first criterion in choosing what vegetables to grow is to select those your family will eat, keeping in mind that a green vegetable and a yellow vegetable should be served each day to supply necessary vitamins. Tomatoes and onions are popular, as well as green beans and southern peas. If space is limited, produce vegetables that offer a large return for a small space. Leaves as well as growing tips of collards may be harvested over a long period from the same plant. Peppers and tomatoes generally are productive for long periods. Some of the smaller fruited tomato varieties will produce continuously until killed by fall frosts.

The centerfold table gives general information on planting and growing period, and may serve as a guide for the amount of each vegetable to plant per person for fresh use and preserving. When you plant purposely for preserving, grow and harvest vegetables at the time of year when they are best for this purpose. For example, green beans that mature during cooler fall weather have much less fiber than those maturing during the warm weather of late spring or summer.

Order seeds from a reputable seedsman. Select vegetable varieties adapted to your locality. Varieties listed generally are productive in most areas of Texas.

Vegetables	Seed or Plants per 100 feet	Depth of Seed Planting in Inches	Inches of Distance Between		Average Height of Crop in Feet	Spring Planting in Regard to Average Frost-Free Date
			Rows	Plants		
Asparagus	66 pl., 1 oz.	6-8, 1-1 1/2	36-48	18	5	4 to 6 wks. before
Beans, snap bush	1/2 lb.	1-1 1/2	24-36	3-4	1 1/2	on to 4 wks. after
Beans, snap pole	1/2 lb.	1-1 1/2	36-48	4-6	6	on to 4 wks. after
Beans, Lima bush	1/2 lb.	1-1 1/2	30-36	3-4	1 1/2	on to 4 wks. after
Beans, Lima pole	1/4 lb.	1-1 1/2	36-48	12-18	6	on to 4 wks. after
Beets	1 oz.	1	14-24	2	1 1/2	4 to 6 wks. before
Broccoli	1/4 oz.	1/2	24-36	14-24	3	4 to 6 wks. before
Brussels Sprouts	1/4 oz.	1/2	24-36	14-24	2	4 to 6 wks. before
Cabbage	1/4 oz.	1/2	24-36	14-24	1 1/2	4 to 6 wks. before
Cabbage, Chinese	1/4 oz.	1/2	18-30	8-12	1 1/2	4 to 6 wks. before
Carrot	1/2 oz.	1/2	14-24	2	1	4 to 6 wks. before
Cauliflower	1/4 oz.	1/2	24-36	14-24	3	not recommended
Chard, Swiss	2 oz.	1	18-30	6	1 1/2	2 to 6 wks. before
Collard (Kale)	1/4 oz.	1/2	18-36	8-16	2	2 to 6 wks. before
Corn, sweet	3-4 oz.	1-2	24-36	12-18	6	on to 6 wks. after
Cucumber	1/2 oz.	1/2	48-72	24-48	1	on to 6 wks. after
Eggplant	1/8 oz.	1/2	24-36	18-24	3	2 to 6 wks. after
Garlic	1 lb.	1-2	14-24	2-4	1	4 to 6 wks. before
Kohlrabi	1/4 oz.	1/2	14-24	4-6	1 1/2	2 to 6 wks. before
Lettuce	1/4 oz.	1/2	14-24	2-3	1	6 wks. before-2 wks. after
Muskmelon (Cantaloupe)	1/2 oz.	1	60-96	24-36	1	on to 6 wks. after
Mustard	1/4 oz.	1/2	14-24	6-12	1 1/2	on to 6 wks. after
Okra	2 oz.	1	36-42	24	6	2 to 6 wks. after
Onion (plants)	400-600 pl.	1-2	14-24	2-3	1 1/2	4 to 10 wks. before
Onion (seed)	1 oz.	1/2	14-24	2-3	1 1/2	6 to 8 wks. before
Parsley	1/4 oz.	1/8	14-24	2-4	1 1/2	on to 6 wks. before
Peas, English	1 lb.	2-3	18-36	1	2	2 to 8 wks. before
Peas, Southern	1/2 lb.	2-3	24-36	4-6	2 1/2	2 to 10 wks. after
Pepper	1/8 oz.	1/2	24-36	18-24	3	1 to 8 wks. after
Potato, Irish	6-10 lb.	4	30-36	10-15	2	4 to 6 wks. before
Potato, sweet	75-100 pl.	3-5	36-48	12-16	1	2 to 8 wks. after
Pumpkin	1/2 oz.	1-2	60-96	36-48	1	1 to 4 wks. after
Radish	1 oz.	1/2	14-24	1	1/2	6 wks. before-4 wks. after
Spinach	1 oz.	1/2	14-24	3-4	1	1 to 8 wks. before
Squash, summer	1 oz.	1-2	36-60	18-36	3	1 to 4 wks. after
Squash, winter	1/2 oz.	1-2	60-96	24-48	1	1 to 4 wks. after
Tomato	50 pl., 1/8 oz.	4-6, 1/2	24-48	18-36	3	on to 8 wks. after
Turnip, greens	1/2 oz.	1/2	14-24	2-3	1 1/2	2 to 6 wks. before
Turnip, roots	1/2 oz.	1/2	14-24	2-3	1 1/2	2 to 6 wks. before
Watermelon	1 oz.	1-2	72-96	36-72	1	on to 6 wks. after

Planting Arrangement

Perennial crops such as asparagus, rhubarb (mainly for North Texas where the soil freezes) and artichokes are suitable for large gardens; plant them along one side of the garden where they will not interfere with seasonal crops.

Arrange rows in an east-west direction. Group the tall-growing vegetables such as okra, staked tomatoes and pole beans to the north to avoid shading low-growing ones such as radishes, onions and bush beans. Plan for most efficient use of the garden by grouping early-maturing crops so as one crop is removed, another may be planted in its place. During the same or following year, follow with an unrelated crop to avoid disease and insect buildup.

Fertilization

Well-rotted barnyard manure supplemented with 100 to 200 pounds of 20 percent superphosphate (0-20-0) per ton of manure is an excellent material to apply to garden soil. For best results, spread at the rate of about 1 gallon per 1 to 5 square feet and incorporate it to a depth of 8 to 10 inches. When manure is not available, apply 25 to 30 pounds per 1000 square feet of fertilizer such as a 5-20-10 for the silt loams and clay soils or 5-20-20 for sandy soils. Broadcast about three-fourths of the fertilizer and mix it into the soil to a depth of 8 to 10 inches. Apply the remainder in bands on both sides of the row, about 1 to 2 inches from the seed or transplant and 1 to 2 inches below the seed. *Do not allow fertilizer to contact seed, stems or foliage.* If excessive rains leach nitrogen

Fall Planting in Regard to Average Fall-Freeze-Date	No. Days Ready for Use	Average Length of Harvest Season Days	Average Crop Expected per 100 feet	Approx. Planting per Person	
				Fresh	(Storage) Canning or Freezing
not recommended	730	60	30 lb.	10-15 pl.	10-15 pl.
8 to 10 wks. before	45-60	14	120 lb.	15-16 ft.	15-20 ft.
not recommended	60-70	30	150 lb.	5-6 ft.	8-10 ft.
8 to 10 wks. before	65-80	14	25 lb. shelled	10-15 ft.	15-20 ft.
not recommended	75-85	40	50 lb. shelled	5-6 ft.	8-10 ft.
8 to 10 wks. before	50-60	30	150 lb.	5-10 ft.	10-20 ft.
10 to 16 wks. before	60-80	40	100 lb.	3-5 pl.	5-6 pl.
10 to 14 wks. before	90-100	21	75 lb.	2-5 pl.	5-8 pl.
10 to 16 wks. before	60-90	40	150 lb.	3-4 pl.	5-10 pl.
12 to 14 wks. before	65-70	21	80 heads	5-10 ft.	—
12 to 14 wks. before	70-80	21	100 lb.	5-10 ft.	10-15 ft.
10 to 16 wks. before	70-90	14	100 lb.	3-5 pl.	8-12 pl.
12 to 16 wks. before	45-55	40	75 lb.	3-5 pl.	8-12 pl.
8 to 12 wks. before	50-80	60	100 lb.	5-10 ft.	5-10 ft.
not recommended	70-90	10	10 doz.	10-15 ft.	30-50 ft.
10 to 12 wks. before	50-70	30	120 lb.	1-2 hls.	3-5 hls.
not recommended	80-90	90	100 lb.	2-3 pl.	2-3 pl.
not recommended	140-150	—	40 lb.	—	1-5 ft.
12 to 16 wks. before	55-75	14	75 lb.	3-5 ft.	5-10 ft.
10 to 14 wks. before	40-80	21	50 lb.	5-15 ft.	—
14 to 16 wks. before	85-100	30	100 frts.	3-5 bls.	—
10 to 16 wks. before	30-40	30	100 lb.	5-10 ft.	10-15 ft.
12 to 16 wks. before	55-65	90	100 lb.	4-6 ft.	6-10 ft.
not recommended	80-120	40	100 lb.	3-5 ft.	30-50 ft.
8 to 10 wks. before	90-120	40	100 lb.	3-5 ft.	30-50 ft.
6 to 16 wks. before	70-90	90	30 lb.	1-3 ft.	1-3 ft.
2 to 12 wks. before	55-90	7	20 lb.	15-20 ft.	40-60 ft.
10 to 12 wks. before	60-70	30	40 lb.	10-15 ft.	20-50 ft.
12 to 16 wks. before	60-90	90	60 lb.	3-5 pl.	3-5 pl.
14 to 16 wks. before	75-100	—	100 lb.	50-100 ft.	—
not recommended	100-130	—	100 lb.	5-10 pl.	10-20 pl.
12 to 14 wks. before	75-100	—	100 lb.	1-2 hls.	1-2 hls.
on to 8 wks. before	25-40	7	100 bunches	3-5 ft.	—
2 to 16 wks. before	40-60	40	3 bu.	5-10 ft.	10-15 ft.
12 to 15 wks. before	50-60	40	150 lb.	2-3 hls.	2-3 hls.
12 to 14 wks. before	85-100	—	100 lb.	1-3 hls.	1-3 hls.
12 to 14 wks. before	70-90	40	100 lb.	3-5 pl.	5-10 pl.
2 to 12 wks. before	30	40	50-100 lb.	5-10 ft.	—
2 to 12 wks. before	30-60	30	50-100 lb.	5-10 ft.	5-10 ft.
14 to 16 wks. before	80-100	30	40 frts.	2-4 hls.	—

beyond the root zone, as indicated by general yellowing of the foliage, apply about 6 pounds of ammonium sulfate or ammonium nitrate fertilizer per 1000 square feet. Spread fertilizer between the rows and then cultivate or water it into the soil.

Mulches

Mulches in the vegetable garden are valuable aids in controlling weeds, conserving soil moisture, keeping vegetables clean, eliminating fruit rots caused by soil contact and preventing physical compaction of the soil. Organic mulch such as straw, leaves, grass, bark, gin trash and sawdust improve water infiltration into the soil and, upon being plowed in, increase the organic matter content of the soil. These organic mulches should not be used in early spring on warm season vege-

tables because they maintain a relatively low soil temperature. Black plastic film and dark colored paper mulches increase soil temperature and generally increase maturity of the warm season vegetables about a week over unmulched vegetables. Light colored paper and organic mulches are suitable for mulching warm season vegetables in the summer because they help decrease high soil temperature occurring throughout Texas.

Irrigation

When organic mulches are used, irrigate with a sprinkler system or soaker hose. Apply sufficient water to penetrate at least 6 inches deep. With plastic film and paper mulches, lay the soaker hose or perforated irrigation hose on top of the bed before applying mulch. Applying water under the mulch provides efficient irrigation.

Local Market and Home Garden Vegetable Varieties for Texas

- Bean, Bush* – Contender, Extender, Wade, Blue Lake, Romano, Tendercrop
Bean, Pinto – Pinto 111, Luna
Bean, Pole – Stringless Blue Lake, Kentucky Wonder, Dade, Romano
Bean, Lima bush – Jackson Wonder, Henderson Bush, Fordhook 242
Bean, Lima pole – Florida Butter, Sieva (Carolina)
Beets – Detroit Dark Red, Green Top Bunching, Asgrow Wonder
Broccoli – Waltham 29, De Cicco, Coastal, Spartan Early
Brussels Sprouts – Jade Cross
Cabbage – Globe yr., Early Round Dutch, Greenback, Golden Acre yr., Red Acre (red), Drumhead (savoy),
Hybrids – Round-up, Superette, Rio Verde
Cabbage, Chinese – Michihli
Cantaloupe – Perlita, Rio Gold, Smith's Perfect, Golden Perfection, Dulce
Carrot – Emperor, Danvers 126, Nantes (home garden), Red Core Chantenay
Cauliflower – Snowball
Chard – Lucullus
Collard – Georgia
Corn, Sweet – Aristogold Bantam Evergreen, Merit, Golden Security, Buttersweet, Silver Queen (white)
Cucumbers – (Pickling) Ohio MR17, Piccadilly, Try new hybrids
(Slicers) Palomar, Ashley, Poinsett, TAMU Tex-Long, Try new hybrids
Eggplant – Florida Market, Black Beauty, Try new hybrids
Garlic – Texas white
Kale – Vates
Lettuce – (Head) Great Lakes strains, Valverde, Mesa 659, (Leaf) Salad Bowl, Oakleaf, (Butterhead) Summer
Bibb, Tendercrisp, (Romaine) Valmaine
Mustard – Tendergreen, Florida Broadleaf
Okra – Clemson Spineless, Louisiana Green Velvet, Gold Coast
Onion – Granex (Yellow and White), Eclipse, Grano 502, In North Texas – also Sweet Spanish Strains
Parsley – Moss Curled, Evergreen
Peas, Southern – Blackeye No. 5, Brown Sugar Crowder, Burgundy (purple hull), Champion (cream),
Cream 40, Knuckle Purple Hull
Pepper, Sweet – Yolo Wonder, Big Heart, Keystone Giant, Bell Boy, Try new hybrids
Pepper, Hot – Long Red or Thin Cayenne, Hungarian Wax, Jalapeno
Potato, Irish – (White) Kennebec, (Red) Red Lasoda, (Russett) Norgold
Potato, Sweet – Copperskin Goldrush, Centennial, Rose Centennial, Porto Rico
Radish – Cherry Belle, Early Scarlet Globe (Short Top), White Icicle, (Winter) Black Spanish, White
Chinese
Rutabaga – American Purple Top
Spinach – Early Hybrid 7, Dixie Savoy, Summer production – New Zealand, Malabar (Basella alba)
Squash – Early Prolific Straightneck, Dixie Hybrid Crookneck, White Bush Scallop, Zucchini, Acorn (win-
ter), Butternut (winter), Try new hybrids
Tomato – Homestead, Young, TAMU Chico III, Nematex (nematode resistant), TAMU Monte Grande,
Porter
Turnip – Purple Top White Globe, Seven Top (greens), Crawford
Watermelons – Charleston Gray, Sugar Baby, Klondike, Seedless Tri-X 313, Crimson Sweet, Sweet Princess