

Vegetable Gardening - Quick Reference Guide
AG-12

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Planning Your Garden

- Using the table in this leaflet, determine your vegetable needs based on your family preferences. Determine whether they are consistent with your garden space.
- If space is limited, concentrate on vegetables that yield the greatest return for your effort, such as pole beans, tomatoes, cabbage, root crops, and leafy greens.
- Plan for year-round production through successive plantings.
- If practical, run rows east and west.
- Don't plant tall-growing vegetables on the south side of lower-growing ones. Group tall-growing crops together on the north side so they won't shade shorter plants.

Locating the Garden

Locate your garden near a source of water for irrigation and on fertile, well-drained soil. Avoid areas near trees and large shrubs because your garden will need full sunlight.

Soils and Fertilizer

Have your soil analyzed. Your county Cooperative Extension Center can provide a soil test kit. If the soil is crusty and sticky, add a material such as old sawdust or compost to improve its tilth.

Broadcast and till in fertilizer or apply it in furrows 3 inches to either side of the row in which your seeds or transplants will be planted. Sidedress with a light application of nitrogen each two to

three weeks using 2 cups of sodium nitrate or calcium nitrate per hundred feet of row. To avoid fertilizer injury, keep the sidedressing material 4 to 6 inches from the stems of the plants.

Transplanting and Seeding

Plant seeds two to three times as deep as the greatest diameter of the seed. Cover the seed and firm the soil lightly. Water young transplants with a starter solution made by dissolving 4 level teaspoons of 8-8-8 fertilizer in 1 gallon of water.

For plants in peat cups or cubes, be sure to cover the containers well with soil when you transplant them to the garden. Provide temporary shade for tender transplants for two or three days after you set them out.

Mulching

Mulching helps to conserve moisture, reduce weeds, and reduce erosion. Use leaves, old shavings, straw, black plastic, newspaper, or compost. Organic mulches keep the soil cool; plastic mulches increase soil temperatures early in the growing season. If you use newspapers or plastic, be sure to hold it in place with rocks or soil. If the mulch is impermeable to water, be sure the soil is moist before you lay the mulch down.

Because organic mulches such as sawdust and compost can "tie up" nitrogen, you may have to sidedress with nitrogen more often and in larger amounts when these materials are used.

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Suggested Varieties for Vegetable Gardens

Seed or Plants	Amount Per Person Per Year	Suggested Varieties
Asparagus (crowns)	10	Mary Washington, Jersey Giant, Jersey Gem
Beans, snap	1/4 pound	Tenderette, Harvester, Astro, Roma (flat), Derby, Dandy
Beans, pole	1/4 pound	Kentucky Wonder 191, Blue Lake Stringless, Romano (flat), Kentucky Blue
Beans, bush lima	1/2 pound	Fordhook 242, Bridgeton, Early Thorogreen
Beans, pole lima	1/2 pound	King of the Garden, Carolina Sieva (small)
Beet	1/4 packet	Ruby Queen, Early Wonder, Red Ace, Pacemaker II
Broccoli ^{3,4}	15 plants	DeCicco, Packman, Premium Crop, Green Duke, Emperor
Brussel sprouts ^{3,4}	25 plants	Long Island Improved, Jade Cross Hybrid
Cabbage (plants) ^{3,4}	25 plants	Round Dutch, Early Jersey Wakefield, Red Express, Red Rookie, Sweetbase
Cabbage, Chinese	1/4 packet	Pak Choi, Mei Ching, Jade Pagoda, China Pride
Cantaloupe	12 plants	Classic, Magnum 45, Ambrosia, Honey Brew
Carrots	1/4 packet	Danvers Half Long, Spartan Bonus, Little Finger, Thumbelina, Scarlet Nantes
Cauliflower ^{3,4}	25 plants	Early Snowball "A", Violet Queen, Snowcrown
Collards ^{3,4}	25 plants	Vates, Morris' Improved Heading, Carolina
Corn, sweet	1 packet	Silver Queen, Seneca Chief, Honey 'n Pearl, How Sweet It Is, Bodacious, Merit
Chinese cabbage	1/4 packet	Michihli, Hybrid G, Chieftain Savoy
Cucumbers, pickling	1/4 packet	Carolina, Calypso, Liberty (mnts.), County Fair '83
Cucumbers, slicing	1/4 packet	Poinsett, Sweet Slice, County Fair '83, Salad Bush, Fanfare
Eggplant (plants) ^{3,4}	2 plants	Florida Highbush, Special Hibush, Ichiban, Rosa Bianco
Kale	1/4 ounce	Green Curled Scotch, Early Siberian, Vates, Dwarf Blue Curled Scotch, Blue Knight
Kohlrabi	1/4 ounce	White Vienna, Grand Duke Hybrid
Lettuce (leaf)	1/4 packet	Grand Rapids, Salad Bowl, Buttercrunch, Red Sails, Romulus
Lettuce (head)	15 plants	Great Lakes, Ithaca
Mustard	1/4 ounce	Southern Giant Curled, Tendergreen, Savannah
Onions (seed)	1/4 ounce	Texas 1015, Granex 33, Candy
Onions (sets or plants)	50	Ebenezer, Excell, Early Grano
Okra	1/4 packet	Clemson Spineless, Lee, Annie Oakley, Burgundy
Peas (edible-podded)	1/2 pound	Sugar Snap, Mammoth Melting Sugar, Snowbird, Sugar Bon
Peas, garden	1/2 pound	Wando, Green Arrow, Freezonian, Tall Telephone
Peas, southern	1/2 pound	Dixilee, Mississippi Silver, Colossus, Hercules, Mississippi Purple Hull
Peppers, sweet (plants) ^{3,4}	4 plants	California Wonder, Yolo Wonder, Pimento, Mexi Bell, Jingle Bells, King Authur
Peppers, hot (plants) ^{3,4}	2 plants	Red Chili, Cayenne, Hungarian Yellow Wax, Super Chili, Super Cayenne, Mitla
Potatoes (Irish)	10 pounds	Kennebec, Red Pontiac, Yukon Gold, Superior
Pumpkins	1/4 packet	Autumn Gold, Howden's Field, Spookie (small), Baby Bear (mini small), Connecticut Field
Radishes	1/4 packet	Early Scarlet Globe, Cherry Belle, Snowbells, White Icicle
Radish, Diakon	1/4 packet	April Cross, H.N. Cross
Rutabagas	1/4 packet	American Purple Top, Laurentian
Spinach	1/4 packet	Hybrid 7, Dark Green Bloomsdale, Tye Hybrid
Squash, summer	1/4 packet	Seneca Prolific (yellow), Zucchini Elite (green), Sun Drops, Goldbar
Squash, winter	1/4 packet	Sweet Mama, Early Butternut, Spaghetti, Cream of the Crop, Table Ace, Lakota
Sweetpotatoes ⁴	75 plants	Porto Rico 198, Jewel, Pope
Swiss chard	1/4 packet	Lucullus
Tomatoes (plants) ^{3,4}	15 plants	Whopper ⁵ , Mt. Pride, Celebrity ⁵ , Better Boy ⁵ , Husky Gold, Patio, Big Beef ⁵
Turnips	1/4 ounce	Purple Top White Globe, Just Right, Tokyo Cross Hybrid, White Egg
Watermelons	1/2 ounce	Congo, Sweet Princess, Sugar Baby (small), Golden Crown

Pest Control

Don't panic if you see one or two insects or minor disease symptoms on your plants. If damage is obvious, ask your county Extension agent to help identify the pest and recommend control measures. Be sure the insect or disease is properly identified before taking action.

Further Information

If you need more detailed information on home gardening, see North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service publication AG-06, *Home Vegetable Gardening*, available from your county Extension Center.

Planting Information and Days To Maturity

	Suggested Planting Dates¹	Distance Between Plants (inches)	Planting Depth (inches)	Min. Soil Temp. (°F)²	Approx. No. of Seeds Per Ounce	Days to Maturity
Asparagus (crowns)	Nov. 15-Mar. 15	15	6.0	---	---	2 years
Beans, snap	Apr. 15-July 15	3	1.0	60	100	50-55
Beans, pole	Apr. 15-July 1	6	1.0	50	100	65-70
Beans, bush lima	May 1-July 1	6	1.5	65	70 ³	75-95
Beans, pole lima	May 1-June 15	6	1.5	65	70 ³	75-95
Beet	Mar. 15-Apr. 15; July 15-Aug. 1-15	2	0.5	50	1,600	55-60
Broccoli ^{3,4}	Mar. 15-31; July 15-Aug. 1-15	18	0.5	45	9,000	70-80
Brussel sprouts ^{3,4}	July 1-15	20	0.5	45	9,000	90-100
Cabbage (plants) ^{3,4}	Feb. 1-Apr. 1; Aug 1-15	12	0.5	45	9,000	70-80
Cabbage, Chinese	Mar. 15-Apr. 1; Aug. 1-15	12	0.5	50	9,500	75-85
Cantaloupe	Apr. 20-June 1	24	1.0	70	1,000	85-99
Carrots	Feb. 15-Mar. 1; July 1-15	2	0.25	45	23,000	85-95
Cauliflower ^{3,4}	Mar. 15-31; Aug 1-15	18	0.5	45	10,000	55-65
Collards ^{3,4}	July 15-Aug. 15	18	0.5	45	8,000	60-100
Corn, sweet	Apr. 15-June 1	12	1.5	50	150	85-90
Chinese cabbage	Mar. 15-Apr. 1; Aug. 1-15	12	0.5	50	9,500	75-85
Cucumbers, pickling	Apr. 20-May 15; Aug. 1-15	10	1.0	65	1,000	40-50
Cucumbers, slicing	Apr. 20-May 15; Aug. 1-15	10	1.0	65	1,000	40-50
Eggplant (plants) ^{3,4}	May 1-31	24	0.5	70	6,000	80-85
Kale	Mar. 1-Apr. 1; Aug. 15-Sept. 1	6	0.5	45	10,000	40-50
Kohlrabi	Mar. 1-Apr. 15; Aug. 1-Sept. 1	4	0.5	55	8,000	50-60
Lettuce (leaf)	Mar. 1-Apr. 1; Aug. 1-Sept. 1	6	0.25	45	25,000	40-50
Lettuce (head)	Feb. 15-Mar. 15; Aug. 15-31	10	0.25	45	25,000	70-85
Mustard	Mar. 1-Apr. 1; Aug. 1-Sept. 15	2	0.5	40	15,000	30-40
Onions (seed)	Jan. 15-Mar. 31; Sept. 1-30	4	0.5	50	9,500	130-150
Onions (sets or plants)	Feb. 1-Mar. 15; Sept. 1-15	4	---	---	---	60-80
Okra	May 1-31	12	1.0	70	500	60-70
Peas (edible-podded)	Jan. 1-Mar. 1	1	1.0	40	200 ³	60-70
Peas, garden	Jan. 1-Mar. 1	1	1.0	40	200 ³	65-70
Peas, southern	May 1-July 1	4	1.0	70	125	55-65
Peppers, sweet (plants) ^{3,4}	May 1-31	18	0.5	65	4,500	75-80
Peppers, hot (plants) ^{3,4}	May 1-31	15	0.5	65	4,500	75-80
Potatoes (Irish)	Feb. 15-Apr. 1	10	5.0	40	---	95-120
Pumpkins	Apr. 15-June 15	48	1.5	70	110	115-120
Radishes	Feb. 1-Apr. 1; Aug. 15-Sept. 15	1	0.5	45	2,000	25-30
Radish, Diakon	Feb. 1-Apr. 1; Aug. 15-Sept. 15	1	0.5	45	2,000	60-75
Rutabagas	Feb. 1-Apr. 1; July 1-Aug. 1	4	0.5	45	12,000	70-80
Spinach	Feb. 15-Mar. 15; Aug. 1-15	6	0.5	45	2,800	50-60
Squash, summer	Apr. 15-May 15; Aug. 1-15	24	1.5	60	300	50-60
Squash, winter	Apr. 15-May 15; Aug. 1-15	36	1.0	60	300	70-95
Sweetpotatoes ⁴	May 15-June 15	10	---	70	---	95-125
Swiss chard	Mar. 15-May 1	6	0.5	50	1,600	60-70
Tomatoes (plants) ^{3,4}	Apr. 20-July 15	18	0.5	60	10,000	75-85
Turnips	Feb. 1-Apr. 15; Aug. 1-31	2	0.5	60	13,000	55-60
Watermelons	Apr. 15-June 1	60	1.5	70	250 ⁶	90-100

¹Dates shown are for the upper coastal plains and lower piedmont. In western North Carolina deely planting 10 to 20 days in spring and plant 10 to 20 days earlier in fall. In eastern North Carolina plant 7 to 14 days earlier in spring and 7 to 14 days later in the fall.

²At these temperatures germination and emergence should be rapid. Planting at lower soil temperature would significantly delay emergence.

³Seeding depths and soil temperatures are given for gardeners who wish to grow their own plants.

⁴Set plants with at least 50 percent of their length below ground.

⁵Carries resistance to verticillium wilt, fusarium wilt, and root-knot nematodes.

⁶The size of the seeds varies widely with variety.