

Vegetable gardening

Garden planning calendar

[View planning calendar.](#)

- ✓ January – February: Order seed catalogs.
- ✓ **February – March:** Order seeds.
- ✓ **March - April:** Prepare the [soil](#) when it is dry enough.
- ✓ **April:** Plant cool season vegetables. ([Check local planting dates.](#))
- ✓ **May:** Plant warm season vegetables after danger of frost.

Where to put your garden

[View planning your garden tip sheet.](#)

- ✓ Convenient to your home and close to a water source.
- ✓ Where the soil is good and free from toxins.
- ✓ Sunny, level spot (six to eight hours of sunlight)
 - Stay away from trees and shrubs.
 - Avoid north-facing slopes and low areas.

Build your garden soil

[Learn how to build your soils.](#)

- ✓ Add organic matter every year.
 - [Test your soil](#) for acidity (pH) and nutrients.
- ✓ Use appropriate amount and type of fertilizer.
- ✓ Prepare your garden soil for planting and avoid compacting it.

Plan your garden on paper

[Create a garden layout.](#)

- ✓ Start small (20' x 10') and expand with more experience.
 - Plant tall vegetables on the north side.
 - Give each plant the space it needs.
- ✓ Draw garden map and include:
 - Specific location of each vegetable crop.
 - Spacing between plants and rows.
 - Vegetables your family likes to eat.
 - Planting dates.

Plant your vegetable garden

- ✓ Buy and plant seeds and transplants according to your plan.
- ✓ Harden off your transplants.
- ✓ Plant when the soil is warm enough for your vegetable crops.
- ✓ Use mulch, and maybe row covers.

Keep your plants growing

- ✓ Thin plants to increase harvest.
- ✓ Keep the garden weeded and manage pest problems.
- ✓ Add nutrients in the summer when needed .
- ✓ Water when the soil is dry.

Harvest vegetables

- ✓ Check your garden often; you'll enjoy it more!
- ✓ Harvest vegetables at their peak flavor and nutrition level.
- ✓ Use as soon as possible.

Notes:

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