



Andy's Garden

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VEGETABLE PLANTING TIPS



When planning your garden, take into consideration the amount of space you have available, your requirements for canning, freezing or table use, and the local frost dates and climate. Find an area that will receive about 5 to 6 hours of direct sunlight. Decide which vegetables you will want to include in your garden remembering that some vegetables need more "growing room" than others. For a lengthier harvest, plant vegetables at staggered time intervals.

SOIL PREPARATION - Prepare soil by spading deeply. Loosen up heavy clay and clay loam with the addition of peat moss, ground bark or compost. Add about 2 lbs. of 5-10-5 fertilizer per 100 square feet or 1 lb. of 10-10-10 per 100 square feet and turn the soil over again. Then rake it smooth, and your garden will be ready for planting.

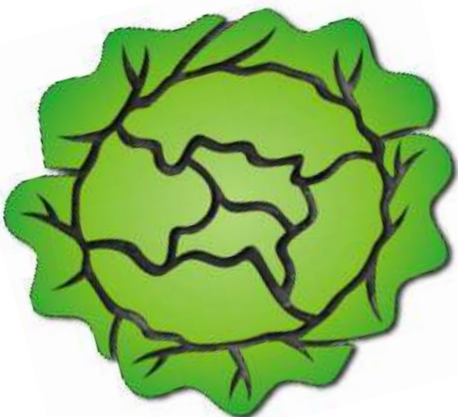
PRE-PLANTING CARE - If you buy bedding plants but cannot plant them the same day, water the packs or flats thoroughly and put them in the shade to prevent excessive wilting. Evenings or cloudy days are the best times to plant. After planting, always water plants thoroughly.

HOW TO PLANT - Moisten soil before planting and allow to dry slightly until it is workable. Generally, plant seeds about 3 times as deep as their diameter. Cover small seeds and slowly germinating plants with finely sifted compost, vermiculite or fine sand. Transplant individual plants in the garden at the proper time.

WATERING - Vegetables are thirsty. Water them in thoroughly with a mild fertilizer solution to give them a good start. Thereafter water whenever the soil begins to dry. Water early in the day with a soaking technique at ground level. Don't be satisfied with just sprinkling the foliage since the plants will not receive enough water, and moisture on the leaves for more than 24 hours encourages plant diseases. Don't rely on rainfall to keep plants fresh... you are more reliable than Mother Nature in this case.

AFTER-PLANTING CARE - To keep your garden a healthy place for growing vegetables get rid of weeds as soon as they appear. For easier weed pulling, moisten soil an hour or so in advance. Get the weeds out from between rows by scraping a flat-bladed hoe over the top 1/2 inch of soil. Pull weeds within the rows by hand to lessen the chance of disturbing vegetable roots.

VEGETABLE	INCHES BETWEEN PLANTS	INCHES BETWEEN ROWS	DAYS TO MATURITY	TEMPERATURE REQUIREMENTS
BROCCOLI	18	30	55 - 75	Sensitive to heat; prefers cool & humid
BRUSSEL SPROUTS	18	30	90 - 95	Same as broccoli
CABBAGE (early & late)	16	24 - 30	65 - 100	Frost hardy
CANTALOUPE	Hills of 3 plants, 36 - 48	48 - 60	80 - 90	Needs long, warm growing season
CAULIFLOWER	18	30	60 - 95	Cool, humid
CELERY	10	18 - 24	100 - 125	
CUCUMBERS	Hills of 2 - 3 plants, 12	48 - 72	50 - 75	Warm weather crop, above 60 degrees
COLLARDS	10 - 12	18 - 24	75	More tolerant of heat than cabbage
EGGPLANT	24	24 - 30	70 - 80	Warm weather crop
LETTUCE: Head Leaf	14 10 - 16	18 - 24 12 - 18	70 - 85 45 - 55	Cool growing season Cool growing season
ONIONS (Spanish)	6 - 8	12 - 18	90 - 115	Make best growth in cool, early spring
PARSLEY	6	12 - 18	58 - 70	
PEPPERS	14 - 18	24 - 30	60 - 80	Needs long growing season
RADISHES (from seed)	1 - 2	6 - 12	25 - 30	Best in cool weather
TOMATOES (cherry)	24 - 36	36 - 48	60 - 90	
SQUASH	36			Warm growing season
WATERMELON	Hills of 3 plants, 72 - 96	72 - 96	85 - 95	Warm growing season



***Making the world beautiful
one flower at a time.***