



The University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences/Cooperative Extension Service

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A well-tended garden can supply you and your family with a variety of nutritious, healthful vegetables to be enjoyed fresh or preserved for later use. When space is limited, a plentiful supply of such crops as tomatoes, peppers, eggplant and okra can be grown on a few properly cared for plants.

Site

If possible, select a site that has full sun exposure and is conveniently located near the house and a water supply. The soil should have a good texture, and be fertile and well drained.

Make a Plan

Plan your garden so that the available space can be used wisely. For small areas, select those crops that you like best and that will produce an adequate supply on a few plants. Also, plan to use the space continuously by planting another in-season crop soon after the last harvest is completed. Plant tall-growing plants together on the north or west side of the garden so they will not shade lower-growing plants. Make a map and keep it current so that the vegetables can be rotated within the garden from year to year.

Cultivars, Seed and Plants

Use known or recommended cultivars for your main planting. Many other cultivars are available, and new cultivars are being introduced each year. Try a few new cultivars on a small scale to determine their worth in your area. Cultivars listed in the vegetable planting chart represent a few of the proven cultivars.

Always buy good quality seed from a reputable company. Do not save your own seed unless it is a unique, unavailable variety.

When buying plants, insist on fresh, stocky plants that are free of diseases and nematodes.

Lime and Fertilizer

Have a soil test run to determine lime and fertilizer needs. If the pH is low (acidic soil), apply the recommended amount of lime before preparing the soil so it can be mixed with the soil during land preparation. A pH of 6.0 to 6.5 is recommended for all vegetables except Irish potatoes, which require a pH of 5.5 to 5.8. Vegetables

are classified as light, medium and heavy feeders, based on their fertilizer needs. The listing below gives the general fertilizer recommendations for each group:

Heavy	Medium	Light
10-10-10 or 6-12-12 at a rate of 1500-1700 lbs./A	10-10-10 or 6-12-12 at a rate of 800-1000 lbs./A	6-12-12 at rate of 400 lbs./A
cabbage celery Irish potatoes lettuce onions sweet potatoes tomatoes	artichoke asparagus beans, all beets cantaloupes carrots corn, sweet cucumbers eggplant greens, all	herbs okra peas, English pepper pumpkin radish rhubarb squash Swiss chard watermelon
		Southern peas

Approximate Amounts of Fertilizer per 100 Feet*

lbs./A	24-in. rows	30-in. rows	36-in. rows	Per 100 sq. ft.
100	½	⅔	¾	¼
200	1	1¼	1½	½
300	1½	1⅔	2¼	¾
400	2	2½	3	1
500	1½	3	3¾	1¼
1000	5	6	7½	1½
2000	10	12	15	5

* One pint of mixed fertilizer will weigh about one pound. For row widths not given, figure in proportion to the given rates.

At least a portion of the fertilizer should be applied in a band three inches to the side and slightly below seed level. Do not apply more than 800 pounds in this manner. The remainder of the fertilizer can be broadcast or applied as a side dressing about three weeks after planting. Put the side dressing several inches away from the plant, never directly on the plant.

If additional nitrogen is needed on peppers, eggplant or tomatoes, apply when the first fruits are about one inch in diameter.

Soil Preparation

Begin soil preparation in the fall by chopping litter and spading or turning deeply to bury the litter. Add other organic matter such as compost, leaf mold or well-rotted sawdust.

Planting the Garden

Information on cultivars, planting dates and spacing is given in the planting chart. Several vegetables can be successively planted to lengthen the harvesting season.

Cultivation

Cultivate or hoe the garden as often as needed to control weeds and grasses. Do not cultivate or hoe too deeply, or root injury will result.

Mulch

A mulch of straw, dried lawn clippings, leaves, sawdust or pine straw will help conserve moisture, control weeds and reduce cultivation. Apply enough mulch to have two to four inches after settling.

Watering

Water the garden as often as needed to maintain a uniform moisture supply. In the absence of rain, a good soaking once a week will probably be adequate for heavier soils. Light sandy soils might require an application more

frequently. Water early in the morning so foliage will dry off quickly, which helps prevent diseases.

Control Insects, Diseases and Nematodes

Serious losses can occur from insects, diseases and nematodes. If nematodes are present, control measures must be taken before the crop is planted. Preventive control measures can be used for insects and diseases, or can be started as soon as problems are spotted. Contact your county Extension agent for assistance in pest identification and recommended control measures.

Harvesting

Harvest at the proper stage of maturity to get the highest quality vegetables. If crops such as beans, okra, squash and cucumbers are left on the vine to mature, the plants will stop producing, so it is essential to pick vegetables regularly. Any surplus production should be canned or frozen as soon as possible after harvesting. Information on canning and freezing is available at your county Extension office.

Vegetables	Days to Maturity*	Cultivars**	Planting Dates		Seeds or Plants/100 ft.	Spacing: Rows/Plants	Depth to Plant***
			Spring	Fall			
Asparagus	Second year	Mary Washington	Jan.15-Mar.15	Nov. and Dec.	50 roots	36"x18-24"	6"
Beans, bush	50-60	Eagle Strike, Provider, Greencrop, BlueLake 274	April 1-May 1	July 5-Aug. 10	½ lb.	36" x 2-4"	1"-1½"
Beans, pole	65-75	Dade, Stringless BlueLake, Kentucky Wonder 191	April-May 10	July 1-August 1	½ lb.	36" x 4-12"	1"-1½"
Beans, lima	65-75	Henderson's Bush Fordhook 242, Jackson Wonder (Speckled)	April 1-June 1	July 1-August 1	½ lb.	36" x 3-4"	1"-1½"
Beans, pole lima	80-85	Sieva, Florida Speckled	April 1-June 1	July 1-August 1	½ lb.	36" x 6-8"	1"-1½"
Beets	55-65	Detroit Dark Red	Feb. 15-Apr. 1	Aug. 1-Sept. 20	1 ounce	18-36" x 2"	½"
Broccoli	60-80	Green Comet, Green Duke, Premium Crop, Southern Comet	Feb. 15-Mar. 15	Aug. 1-Sept. 1	100 plants	36" x 12"	_____
Butterpea	70	Dixie	April 1-May 1	July 1-Aug. 1	½ lb.	36" x 3-4"	1"-1½"
Cabbage	65-80	Rio Verde, A&C No. 5, Early Round Dutch	Jan. 15-Mar. 15	Aug. 1-Oct. 1	100 plants	36" x 12"	_____
Cantaloupe	80-90	Edisto 45, Magnum 45, Supermarket, Saticoy Earlidew (green flesh)	Mar. 20-Apr. 20	_____	1 ounce	60" x 36"	1"
Carrot	70-80	Chantenay, Scarlet Nantes, Orlando Gold	Jan. 15-Mar. 20	Aug.20-Sept.15	½ ounce	18-36" x 2-3"	¼"
Cauliflower	60-75	Snowball Y Improved, White Empress, Supersnowball, Self Blanch	Mar. 1-Apr. 1	July 15-Aug. 15	100 plants	36" x 12"	_____
Collards	55-70	Georgia, Vates, Blue Max, Heavi Crop	Feb. 1-Mar. 15	Aug. 1-Sept. 1	½ ounce	36" x 8-16"	½"
Corn, sweet	65-90	Silverqueen (white), Merit, Seneca Chief, Florida Staysweet	Mar. 15-June 1	_____	¼ lb.	36" x 12-18"	1"-1½"
Cucumber, slicing	50-65	Ashley, Marketmore 76, Dasher II	Apr. 1-May 15	July 15-Aug. 15	1 ounce	60" x 12"	½"-¾"
Cucumber, pickling	50-65	Carolina, Chipper	Apr. 1-May 15	July 15-Aug. 15	1 ounce	60" x 12"	½"-¾"

Vegetables	Days to Maturity*	Cultivars**	Planting Dates		Seeds or Plants/100 ft.	Spacing: Rows/Plants	Depth to Plant***
			Spring	Fall			
Eggplant	75-90	Black Beauty, Florida Market, Dusky	Apr. 1- May 15	July 10- July 30	50 plants	36" x 24"	_____
Kale	50-70	Vates, Dwarf Siberian	Feb. 1- Mar. 10	Aug. 1- Sept. 1	½ ounce	36" x 8-16"	½"
Lettuce	60-85	Bibb, Buttercrunch, Red Sails	Jan. 15- Mar. 1	Sept. 1- Oct. 1	¼ ounce	18-36"x8-12"	1/8"
Mustard	40-50	Florida Broadleaf, Southern Giant Curled	Jan. 15- Apr. 1	Aug. 15- Sept.15	½ ounce	18-36" x 2"	½"
Okra	55-65	Emerald, Clemson Spineless 80, Louisiana Green Velvet	Apr. 1- June 1	June 15- July 10	1 ounce	36" x 12"	1"
Onion, green	42-55	White Portugal	Jan. 1- Mar. 15	Sept. 1- Dec. 31	300 plants	18-36" x 3"	_____
Onion, dry bulb	100-120	Grano 502, Grannex 33, Sweet Vidalia	Jan. 1- Mar. 15	Oct. 10- Nov. 10	300 plants	18-36" x 3-4"	_____
Peas, garden	60-70	Little Marvel, Progress No. 9	Jan. 15- Feb. 15	_____	1 lb.	36" x 2"	1"-2"
Peas, edible pod	60-70	Sugar Snap, Melting Sugar	Jan. 15- Feb. 15	_____	1 lb.	36" x 2"	1"-2"
Peas, Southern	60-70	California Blackeye, Mississippi Silver, Pinkeye Purple Hull, White Acre, Worthmore	April- Aug. 10	_____	½ lb.	36" x 3-4"	1"-2"
Pepper, bell	65-80	Keystone Resistant Giant 4, Yolo Wonder L, Cal Wonder, Jupiter	Apr. 1- June 1	July 25- Aug. 10	50 plants	36" x 24"	_____
Pepper, hot	65-90	TAM Jalepeno (mild), Jalepeno, Cayenne	Apr. 1- June 1	_____	50 plants	36" x 24"	_____
Potatoes, Irish	70-90	Red Pontiac, Red LaSoda, Kennebec (white)	Jan. 15- Mar. 1	_____	12 lb.	36" x 12"	4"-5"
Potatoes, sweet	90-120	Jewel, Georgia Jet, Red Jewel, Georgia Red	Apr. 15- June 15	_____	100 plants	36" x 12"	_____
Radish	25-30	Cherry Bell, Scarlet Globe	Jan. 15- Apr. 1	Sept. 1- Oct. 15	1 ounce	24" x 1"	½"
Spinach	40-45	Melody, Winter Bloomsdale	Jan. 15- Mar. 15	Sept. 1- Oct. 15	1 ounce	18-36" x 2"	½"-¾"
Squash, summer	40-55	Yellow Crookneck, Dixie, Seneca Butterbar, Seneca Zucchini, Sunburst (scallop)	Apr. 1- May 15	Aug. 1- Aug. 25	½ ounce	36" x 24"	1"-2"
Squash, winter	85-100	Waltham Butternut, Table Ace (acorn), Vegetable Spaghetti	Apr. 1- July 1	_____	½ ounce	60" x 36"	1"-2"
Tomato, determinate	70-90	Sunny (VFN), Celebrity (VFNT), Mountain Pride (VF)	Mar. 25- May 1	June 15- July 15	50 plants	48" x 24"	_____
Tomato, indeterminate	70-90	BetterBoy (VFN), Monte Carlo (VFN), Manapal	Mar. 25- May 1	June 15- July 15	50 plants	48" x 24"	_____
Tomato, paste type	70-90	Roma (VF), San Marzano (VF), LaRoma (VF)	Mar. 25- May 1	June 15- July 15	50 plants	48" x 24"	_____
Turnip	40-60	Purple Top, Shogoin, Just Right, Seven Top	Jan. 15- Apr. 1	Aug. 10- Sept.15	½ ounce	18-36" x 2"	½"
Watermelon	80-90	Charleston Gray, Crimson Sweet Jubilee, MickyLee or MinnieLee (icebox)	Mar. 20- May 1	_____	1 ounce	72" x 36-48"	1"-2"

* Days to maturity are from planting seed or setting transplants in the garden. The number of days will vary depending on cultivar (some mature earlier than others), temperature and general growing conditions. Check catalogs for individual maturity time.

** Cultivars listed in the chart represent a few of those recommended. There are many other good cultivars worthy of trial.

*** Plant shallowly in heavy (clay) soil when adequate moisture is present.



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