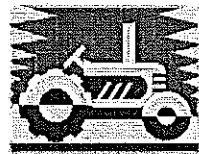


Overview of the Basics

- Site selection (best spot)
- Soil/Site Preparation
- Plant Selection
- Planting
- Care & Maintenance



• HARVEST

Key Factors in Site Selection

- Sun – 6 hrs. or more for most vegetables
- Soil – fertile, well drained, level, pH 6.5-6.8
 - Soil Components
 - Sand, silt, clay, humus
 - Get a soil test! (1301 Park Blvd, \$20.)
- Water – 1" – 1.5" weekly

Soil/Site Preparation

- Soil additives (soil test recommendations)
 - Compost/humus
 - Fertilizer (organic vs synthetic)
 - 10-10-10 (nitrogen-phosphorous-potassium)
- Soil preparation
 - Aerate, mix, soften
 - Trowel, cultivator, pitchfork, shovel
- Mark out squares/rows/sections
 - Make a map to record plantings

Pick Layout Options

- Traditional Plot- narrow rows
- Wide Rows
 - Four feet wide max.
- Raised Beds
 - Eight inches deep
- Containers

Planning... The Next Step!

- When to start-Set date
 - What to plant?
- How to garden- Layout
- Size to do-25'x25', All of It?

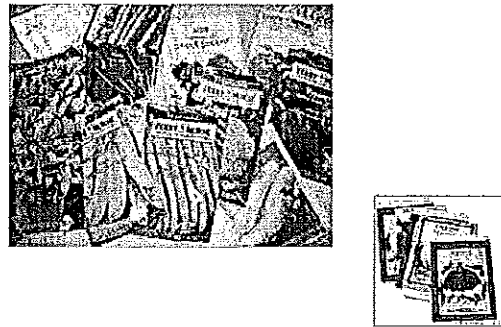
How to Garden: Books, Internet, or Neighbors!



Determine what to Plant using: 1. Seed Catalogs



2-Seed Packets



Make Your Garden Wish List

- Vegetable Choices: Grow what you eat!
 - Rutgers FS681: Varieties for NJ Vegetable Gardens
 - www.rce.rutgers.edu
- Seeds or Plants?
 - Probably both
- Planting Dates: Established based on what you grow!

Common Backyard Garden Vegetables

- Cool Weather Crops – plant spring/fall
 - Beets
 - Broccoli - broccoli raab, brussels sprouts, cabbage
 - Carrots
 - Greens – arugula, chard, kale, lettuce, spinach
 - Peas
 - Radishes
 - Scallions
 - Winter squash – acorn, butternut, buttercup

Common Backyard Garden Vegetables

- Warm Weather Crops – plant early summer
 - Beans – green, yellow, lima, edamame
 - Cucumbers
 - Eggplant
 - Okra
 - Peppers – sweet, hot, frying
 - Tomatoes – beefsteak, slicing, salad, grape, cherry
 - Summer squash – zucchini, yellow, patty-pan

Direct Seed- Transplant?

- Sow seed directly in garden:*
- Beans
- Beets
- Broccoli raab
- Carrots *Depth = 3x seed size
- Greens
- Herbs (some)
- Peas
- Radishes
- Scallions

Direct Seed- Transplant?

- Start seed indoors, or buy “sets” to transplant:
 - Broccoli
 - Brussels sprouts
 - Eggplant
 - Herbs (some)
 - Okra
 - Peppers
 - Tomatoes

Use Calendar for garden date

- Hardiness Zone 7-a
- Mark Last/ First Frost Date (April 26 & Oct 14)
- Count Back/ Forward and Record activities and planting dates.

When deciding on Plants:

- Consider all options
 - Pole/Bush
 - Determinate/Indeterminate
 - Size/Space
 - Grow *vertical* as well as horizontal
- Tall plants to the NORTH!
 - unless you need shade behind

Direct Seed- Planting

- Refer to seed packet instructions & your garden plan
- Make furrow or individual holes
- Drop in seed and cover with fine soil
- Tamp down and water

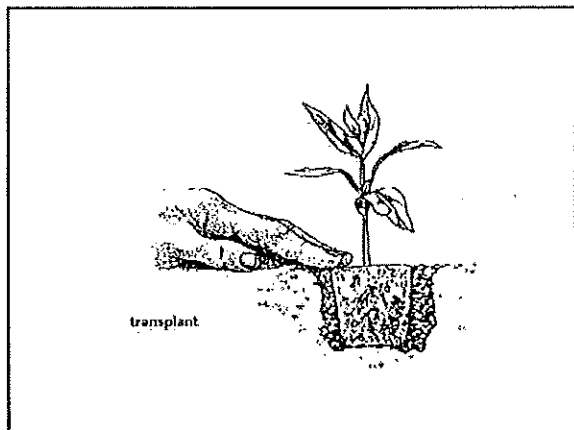
Seedlings- Planting

- Home grown
- Purchased



Planting- Seedlings

- Plants should be acclimated for outdoor conditions ("hardened off")
- Plant early/ late in day, or on a cloudy day
- Dig hole the approximate depth of pot
- Place seedling in hole at the same depth as it was in the pot, except tomatoes
 - bury peat pots *completely!*



Garden Care & Maintenance

Daily Visits!!

"Gardening"

- Mulching
- Watering
- Weeding
- Thinning/ pruning/ cultivating
- Provide for special needs/ requirements
- Mid season fertilizing
- CHECK FOR PROBLEMS!

Compost Vs Mulch?

What's the difference?

- **Compost**= Soil amendment & nutrients
 - mix into soil
- **Mulch**= Protective cover for weed reduction & water retention
 - leave on surface
 - avoid base of plants

Mulching- Advantages

- Saves time and energy
- Retains moisture and reduces weeds
- Modifies soil temperature
- Decreases disease problems

Basic Mulch -Types

- **Natural Mulches**
 - *adds organic matter (grass, straw, hay)
 - *Use old material from hanging baskets!
 - *Newspaper (black ink only)
- **Synthetic Mulches**
 - *must be removed at end of season

Watering- You & Mother Nature

- 1"- 1.5" per week
- Avoid frequent shallow watering
- Consider drip irrigation, soaker hoses, or hand water.
- Never water from above!

Weeding

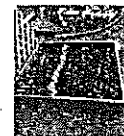
- If you plant it, they will come!
- Keep up or ahead of the weeds (easiest after a rain)
- Consider mulch

Garden Supports!

- Tomato cage!
- Bean tripod!
- PVC or EMT frame- for vining plants!
- Stakes- general support!

Mid season Fertilizing

- For fruit production
- Be conservative
- Follow directions



Problems in the Garden

- Daily visits- look early and often
- Observe plants for CHANGES
- Observe Visitors!
 - Insects - Good/Bad
- Master gardeners helpline
 - 856-216-7130

Note & Follow up!

- Insects you don't recognize
- Evidence of plant damage- holes in leaves or fruit
- Changes in the appearance of plant (coloring, curling leaves, wilting, etc)
- Pesticides are a last resort

Harvesting

- Never pick when the plants are wet- spreads disease
- Pick when fruits are just right (Cukes/Beans)
- Adjust picking to each vegetable


What did you grow and harvest?

- Vegetables
 - Freshness, purity
 - Superior taste
 - Convenience
- Yourself
 - Therapy
 - Nature
 - Aesthetics
 - Exercise
 - Knowledge
 - Friendship
 - Family time



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- For more information contact your county Rutgers Cooperative Extension office.
- www.njaes.rutgers.edu

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