Vegetable Gardening

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&

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Planning

• Plan before you plant – Plant what you like to eat!!!
• Make a plan on paper. Considerations include:
  • Seasonality.
  • Space available/space required per plant.
  • Tallest things should be on the north side of the garden.
• Decide whether to grow from seed or buy transplants.
• Try to choose varieties with disease resistance.
Garden Plans
Planting

• Try to plant on a cloudy day.
• Consider soil temperature.
• Dig a hole, put in plant, fill with soil and water well.
• Label everything with ID and date.
• Trenching tomatoes.
• Succession planting.
• Companion planting.
• Vertical gardening.
• Crop rotation.
Soil

- Soil testing is always recommended to know what nutrients or micro-nutrients may be depleted or in excess.
- Because this is a new garden, with new soil, don’t be too disappointed in the first year.
- We generally don’t use much fertilizer, if any.
- Don’t work when the soil is wet – it will destroy the soil structure.
Watering

- Water the roots, not the leaves.
- Water thoroughly, infrequently.
- Plants need 1” of water a week, unless drought.
- Drip irrigation is best.
- Early morning is best.
- Consider the water requirements of plants you choose.
- It has been said that plants that experience some stress are hardier???
Weeding

• What is a weed, anyway? Why are they bad?
• Get them when they are small.
• Never let them go to seed.
• Use weed cloth/landscape fabric.
• Use mulch.
• Pull by hand or cultivate.
• Planting close together leaves less room for weeds.
Pest Management - IPM

• There will always be some undesirable insects. If noticed early, the numbers can be controlled to acceptable levels.

• IPM – Integrated Pest Management – using a variety of pest management measures including cultural, physical/mechanical, biological and chemical to keep pests at acceptable levels. **Observe, observe, observe!**
IPM

- Cultural
- Physical
- Biological
- Chemical
Pest Management

- Companion planting
- Physical barriers
- Good insects
Disease Management

- IPM – Integrated Pest Management.
- Good sanitation is key.
- Always clean up and remove any vegetative debris.
- Make sure your tools are clean.
- Proper spacing.
- Good watering practices.
- Choose plants with disease resistance (look on seed packets).
- Know your source for plants.
Composting
Resources

• Master Gardener Helpline.
• Classes at Rutgers.
• Garden Club lectures.
• When looking for information on the computer, type your search word followed by "x extension".
• Square Foot Gardening books.
• Park’s Success with Seeds.
• Johnnyseeds.com.