

VEGETABLE GARDENING FOR BEGINNERS

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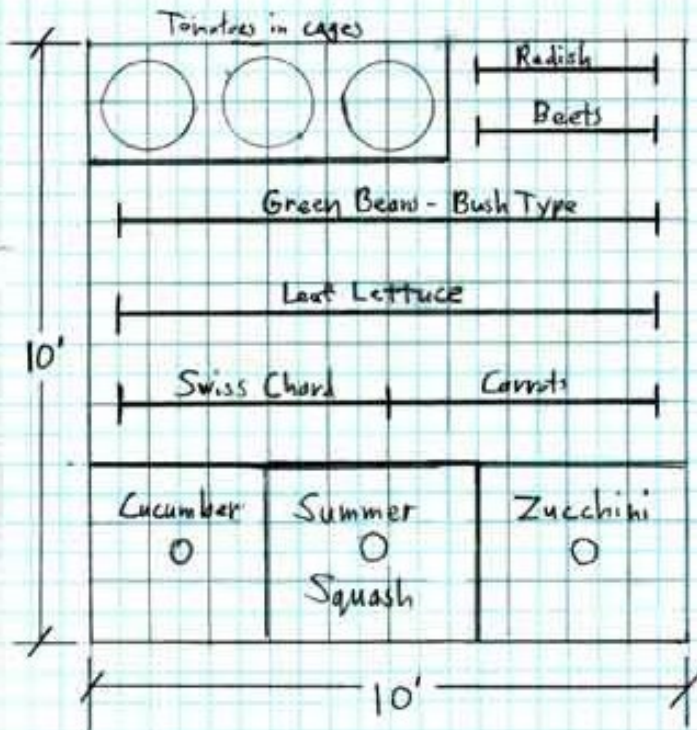
BARREN COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT

FOR HORTICULTURE EDUCATION

PLAN ON PAPER BEFORE YOU BEGIN

- KEEP A NOTEBOOK JUST FOR THE GARDEN
- PICK WHICH VEGETABLES ARE IMPORTANT TO YOU
- GROW VEGETABLES THAT WILL PRODUCE THE MAX FOR THE SPACE
- WRITE IT OUT THEN DRAW IT OUT
- USE SUCCESSION PLANTING FOR LIMITED SPACE

Mid size Garden Layout
(one square = 6")



PLANT ONLY AS LARGE A GARDEN AS YOU CAN EASILY MAINTAIN!!!

- WEEDS, PESTS, WATERING, AND HARVESTING WILL ALL HAVE TO BE DONE ON TIME.
- DON'T LET THIS COMMON MISTAKE HAPPEN TO YOU!



SELECT A GOOD GARDENING SITE

- AVOID LOW SPOTS OR VALLEYS
- LOOK FOR A SOUTHERN EXPOSURE
- PLANT AWAY FROM BUILDINGS, TREES AND OTHER SHADE CREATING OBJECTS BUT TRY TO KEEP IT CLOSE
- NEEDS ACCESS TO RAIN AND WATER



PREPARE THE SOIL PROPERLY WITH A SOIL TEST

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- SOIL TEST IN THE FALL
 - ✓ APPLY ANY LIME IN THE FALL AND FERTILIZERS SHOULD BE APPLIED IN SPRING BEFORE PLANTING.
 - ✓ 10-10-10, N-P-K
- TURN OVER THE SOIL IN THE SPRING AS SOON AS IT IS WORKABLE
- DO NOT WORK THE SOIL WHEN WET OR OVERWORK THE SOIL
- PREPARE 8" DEEP AND ADD ORGANIC MATTER EACH YEAR
- AVOID FRESH MANURE

WHAT IF I HAVE NO SOIL?

CONSIDER BUILDING RAISED BEDS

GROW IN CONTAINERS



SPACE SAVERS AS WELL AS
ALLOWING ENABLING
GARDENING

PLANTING

- DIRECT SEEDING VS. TRANSPLANTING
- ROTATE CROPS
- AVOID THE CLOSELY RELATED CROPS
- HELPS PREVENT INSECT AND DISEASE BUILD UP.
- WHAT VARIETIES TO PLANT?

RELATED VEGETABLES

- BEETS, SWISS CHARD, SPINACH
- CABBAGE, CAULIFLOWER, BROCCOLI, TURNIPS, CHINESE CABBAGE, BRUSSELS SPROUTS
- POTATOES, EGGPLANT, TOMATOES, PEPPERS
- PUMPKIN, SQUASH, WATERMELONS, CUCUMBERS, MUSKMELONS

DIRECT SEEDING

- SEED IS PLANTED DIRECTLY IN THE GARDEN SITE
 - ✓ START WITH WELL PREPARED SOIL
 - ✓ PLANT AT PROPER DEPTH
 - ✓ WATER AS NEEDED
 - ✓ USE SHADE CLOTH IF NECESSARY
 - ✓ PLANT AT PROPER TIME
 - ✓ BEST FOR SOME CROPS AND NOT FOR OTHERS



TRANSPLANTS

- GROW YOUR OWN
 - ✓ MUST HAVE AVAILABLE SPACE, TIME, AND THE ABILITY TO MEET THE BASIC NEEDS OF LIGHT & TEMPERATURE
- BUYING TRANSPLANTS
 - ✓ HEALTHY PLANTS WITH DEEP GREEN FOLIAGE
 - ✓ NO EVIDENCE OF INSECTS OR DISEASE
 - ✓ AVOID PLANTS ALREADY IN BLOOM OR SETTING FRUIT, AND TALL SPINDLY PLANTS
 - ✓ AGAIN, BEST FOR SOME CROPS AND NOT FOR OTHERS & PLANT AT PROPER TIME

Home Vegetable Gardening in Kentucky



Cooperative Extension Service | Agriculture and Natural Resources | Family and Consumer Sciences | 4-H Youth Development | Community and Economic Development

Table 14. Earliest and latest planting dates in the garden in Kentucky. (If producing your own transplants, begin two to 12 weeks earlier than these listed dates. See Table 5.)

Crops	Earliest Safe Planting Date			Latest Safe Planting Date ¹		
	Western	Central	Eastern	Eastern	Central	Western
Asparagus (crowns)	Mar 10	Mar 15	Mar 20	(Spring only)		
Beans (snap)	Apr 10	Apr 25	May 1	July 15	July 25	Aug 1
Beans (lima)	Apr 15	May 1	May 10	June 15	June 20	July 1
Beets	Mar 10	Mar 15	Mar 20	July 15	July 20	Aug 15
Broccoli (plants)	Mar 30	Apr 5	Apr 10	July 15	Aug 1	Aug 15
B. Sprouts (plants)	Mar 30	Apr 5	Apr 10	July 1	July 15	Aug 1
Cabbage	Mar 15	Mar 25	Apr 1	July 1	July 15	Aug 1
Carrots	Mar 10	Mar 20	Apr 1	July 1	July 15	Aug 1
Cauliflower (plants)	Mar 30	Apr 5	Apr 10	July 15	July 20	Aug 5
Celery	Apr 1	Apr 5	Apr 10	June 15	July 1	July 15
Chard	Mar 15	Mar 20	Apr 1	June 15	July 15	Aug 1
Collards	Mar 1	Mar 10	Mar 15	July 15	Aug 1	Aug 15
Sweet Corn	Apr 10	Apr 20	May 1	June 15	July 10	July 20
Cucumbers	Apr 20	May 1	May 10	June 15	July 1	July 15
Eggplant (plants)	May 1	May 10	May 15	June 1	June 15	July 1
Kale	Mar 10	Mar 20	Apr 1	July 15	Aug 1	Aug 15
Kohlrabi	Mar 15	Mar 20	Mar 25	July 15	Aug 1	Aug 15
Lettuce (leaf)	Mar 15	Mar 25	Apr 1	Aug 1	Aug 15	Sept 1
Lettuce (bibb plants)	Mar 15	Mar 25	Apr 1	July 15	Aug 1	Aug 15
Lettuce (head plants)	Mar 15	Mar 25	Apr 1	July 1	July 15	Aug 1
Muskmelons	Apr 20	May 10	May 15	June 15	July 1	July 15
Okra	Apr 20	May 10	May 15	July 1	July 15	Aug 1
Onions (sets)	Mar 1	Mar 10	Mar 15	(Spring only)		
Onions (plants)	Mar 15	Mar 25	Apr 1	June 15	July 1	July 15
Onions (seed)	Mar 10	Mar 20	Apr 1	June 1	June 15	July 1
Parsley	Mar 10	Mar 20	Apr 1	July 15	Aug 1	Aug 15
Parsnips	Mar 10	Mar 20	Apr 1	June 1	June 15	July 1
Peas	Feb 20	Mar 1	Mar 15	(Spring only)		
Peppers (plants)	May 1	May 10	May 20	June 15	July 1	July 15
Irish Potatoes	Mar 15	Mar 15	Mar 20	June 15	July 1	July 15
Sweet Potatoes	May 1	May 10	May 20	June 1	June 10	June 15
Pumpkins	Apr 20	May 5	May 10	June 1	June 15	July 1
Radishes	Mar 1	Mar 10	Mar 15	Sept 1	Sept 15	Oct 1
Rhubarb (crowns)	Mar 1	Mar 10	Mar 15	(Spring only)		
Rutabaga	Mar 1	Mar 10	Mar 15	July 1	July 10	July 15
Southern Peas	Apr 20	May 5	May 10	June 15	July 1	July 15
Snow Peas	Feb 20	Mar 1	Mar 15	July 20	Aug 1	Aug 8
Spinach	Feb 15	Mar 1	Mar 10	Aug 15	Sept 1	Sept 15
Summer Squash	Apr 20	May 10	May 15	July 15	Aug 1	Aug 15
Tomatoes (plants)	Apr 20	May 5	May 15	June 1	June 15	July 1
Turnips	Mar 1	Mar 10	Mar 15	July 15	Aug 1	Aug 15
Watermelons	Apr 20	May 5	May 15	June 15	July 1	July 15
Winter Squash	Apr 20	May 10	May 15	June 15	July 1	July 15

¹ Based on average of early maturing varieties. Mid-season and late-maturing varieties need to be planted 15 to 30 days earlier than latest date. Nearly all of the fall-planted garden crops will require irrigation during dry periods. Additional insect controls may be necessary for these tender young plants.

CARE DURING GROWING SEASON

WATER

- INFREQUENTLY BUT THOROUGHLY, 1" PER WEEK
- WET SOIL NOT PLANT
- WATER EARLY SO FOLIAGE DRIES
- IRRIGATION

MULCH

- REDUCES WATER EVAPORATION
- REDUCES WEED COMPETITION

CARE DURING GROWING SEASON

FERTILIZATION

- USUALLY NEED TO SUPPLEMENT NITROGEN
- FERTIGATION OR SIDEDRESSING

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PEST CONTROL

- MINIMUM ONCE WEEKLY INSPECTION
- CHEMICAL CONTROL IS THE LAST RESORT
- USE THE LEAST POWERFUL AND USE IT ACCORDING TO THE LABELS DIRECTIONS

Insects/Weeds
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CARE DURING GROWING SEASON

DISEASE CONTROL

- SITE SELECTION ▪ SANITATION ▪ SELECT FOR DISEASE RESISTANCE
- PRACTICE CROP ROTATION ▪ REMOVE AND DESTROY INFESTED PLANTS
- AGAIN, MINIMUM ONCE WEEKLY INSPECTIONS
- CONTROL WEEDS & PESTS ▪ AVOID WETTING FOLIAGE, NOR SHOULD
YOU GARDEN WHEN FOLIAGE IS WET
- USE MULCH TO PREVENT SPLATTERING ▪ USE ONLY LABELED FUNGICIDES

END OF SEASON

- STORING VEGETABLES
- GARDEN CLEAN-UP
- COMPOSTING
- RECORD KEEPING
- COVER CROPS
- COLLECT SEEDS



STORING SEEDS

- KEEP DRY
- PLACE IN AIRTIGHT CONTAINER
- LABEL AND DATE
- STORE IN 40° F,
LOW HUMIDITY



SPRING CROPS

- SPRING GARDEN PLANTS GROW BEST WITH COOL AIR TEMPS (50°-65°F) AND LOW LIGHT LEVELS
- IF PLANTED TOO LATE, SUMMER HEAT FORCES SOME TO BOLT, AND OTHERS HAVE OFF OR BITTER TASTE WITH LOW YIELD
- LETTUCE, SPINACH (OTHER LEAFY GREENS), CABBAGE, BROCCOLI, POTATOES, ONIONS, PEAS, ROOT VEGETABLES (CARROTS, BEETS, RADISHES)

Table 10. Crops for the spring garden.

Vegetable	Seeds	Transplants	Days to Maturity ¹
Beets	x		55-60
Bibb lettuce	x	x	60-80
Broccoli		x	40-90
Brussels sprouts		x	80-90
Cabbage		x	60-100
Carrots	x		60-80
Cauliflower		x	50-100
Celery		x	100-130
Chinese cabbage	x	x	43-75
Collards	x		75-90
Endive	x	x	60-90
Kale	x	x	50-60
Kohlrabi	x		50-70
Leaf lettuce	x	x	40-50
Mustard greens	x		35-60
Onions ²	x	x	40-120
Peas	x		60-80
Potatoes ³			90-140
Radishes	x		20-30
Spinach	x		40-70
Swiss chard	x	x	55-60
Turnips	x		40-60
Turnip greens	x		30-50

¹ Days given are for the early to late varieties.

² Onions are also available in sets.

³ Potatoes are available as seed pieces.

SUMMER CROPS

- MOST SUMMER CROPS ARE PLANTED DURING LATE SPRING AFTER THE DANGER OF FROST HAS PASSED
- THESE WARM SEASON CROPS REQUIRE WARM SOIL AND AIR TEMPERATURES FOR VEGETATIVE GROWTH AND FRUIT SET
- BEANS, TOMATOES, PEPPERS, SQUASH, CORN, CUCUMBERS, MELONS, SWEET POTATOES

Table 11. Crops for the summer garden.

Vegetable	Frost-resistant	Seeds	Transplants	Days to Maturity ¹
Beets	x	x		55-60
Cabbage	x		x	60-100
Carrots	x	x		60-80
Collards	x	x		75-90
Cucumbers		x	x	45-65
Eggplant			x	60-75
Endive	x	x	x	50-60
Green beans, bush		x		50-60
Green beans, pole		x		60-90
Irish potatoes ²				90-140
Kale	x	x		50-60
Leaf lettuce	x	x		40-50 ²
Lima beans, bush		x		65-80
Lima beans, pole		x		65-90
Muskmelons		x	x	75-90
New Zealand spinach		x		70-80
Okra		x		50-80
Onions ³	x	x	x	40-120
Parsley	x	x		70-90
Parsnips	x	x		90-110
Peppers			x	65-75
Pumpkins		x		90-120
Southern peas		x		60-70
Summer squash		x		50-55
Sweet corn		x		60-100
Sweet potatoes ⁴			x	120-140
Swiss chard	x	x		55-60
Tomatoes			x	60-90
Watermelons		x	x	70-90
Winter squash		x		80-120

WHY GROW YOUR OWN?

- GET THE VARIETY YOU WANT
- YOU KNOW WHAT HAS BEEN SPRAYED
- FRESH TASTES BETTER!
- VEGETABLES CAN BE FUN
- HARVEST AT THE STAGE YOU WANT.....



WHY GROW YOUR OWN?

- GET THE VARIETY YOU WANT
- YOU KNOW WHAT HAS BEEN SPRAYED
- FRESH TASTES BETTER!
- VEGETABLES CAN BE FUN
- HARVEST AT THE STAGE YOU WANT.....



SEVEN THINGS TO REMEMBER TO BE SUCCESSFUL

1. PLAN ON PAPER BEFORE YOU BEGIN.
2. SELECT A GOOD GARDENING SITE.
3. PREPARE THE SOIL PROPERLY WITH A SOIL TEST.
4. PLAN ONLY AS LARGE A GARDEN AS YOU CAN EASILY MAINTAIN.
5. GROW VEGETABLES THAT WILL PRODUCE THE MAX FOR THE SPACE.
6. PLANT DURING CORRECT SEASON.
7. HARVEST VEGETABLES AT PROPER STAGE.

QUESTIONS???



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