



Prince Edward County Master Gardeners



## VEGETABLES

Home grown vegetables have a flavor rarely matched by those you buy. A well-planned vegetable garden, even in a limited space, can provide a full season's vegetables for a family of four or more. Tall crops, like corn and asparagus should be planted so as not to shade smaller plants; sprawling crops, like melons, squash & cucumbers require ample growing space. Also, your "perennial" crops -asparagus, rhubarb & strawberries need a separate sunny and fairly large location. Rhubarb and asparagus will not produce a crop until, at the earliest, two years after planting.

Where should you put your vegetable garden?

Choose the place that gets the most sun throughout the day (at least six hours). Avoid areas near large trees with wide-spreading roots and low areas that might flood and retain much water. Be sure to stay within a hose length of a water faucet. It is best to stay several feet away from buildings-this will avoid shade and perhaps old construction debris. After you have chosen your location, measure the size of garden you wish (possibly make a graph on paper before you dig or rototill). You could also make raised gardens using 2x10 cedar planks, or hemlock, which is a little less expensive, but not pressure treated lumber. Next, you may want to check the nutrients of your soil and what fertilizer is needed-sometimes you can get some help from your local garden centre. It is advised to do this in the fall. Each vegetable needs a certain optimum space in which to grow. Each year it is important to keep a record of where you planted each veggie in the garden-the following year it is a good idea to rotate your plants- example, tomatoes should not be planted in the same location as the previous year. A suggestion-- plant basil amongst the tomatoes. Another idea-- plant marigolds along edge of your garden to keep down the pests.

If you live in a condo or an apartment with a sunny deck, you could do some container planting. Also, some communities have garden plots, for which you have to apply to participate.

Read your seed packages as to germinating times. Either start indoors or a cold frame (in a south/west location). Example-tomatoes, peppers, etc. or purchase at your local garden centre. The seeds that like cool wet weather can be planted when the earth is workable, usually mid-March to early April-- peas, leaf lettuce, spinach, dutch sets. Plant leaf lettuce and spinach in small rows-they germinate sometimes quicker than you can use them. Thin seedlings as necessary. Note: lettuce and spinach do not do well in warm weather, you could replant in late August when it is cooler. Make sure we do not expect frost before you plant tomatoes or peppers. Usually it is safe to put plants and seeds in the ground any time after May 24th, but with climate change it is best to always check what conditions are ahead. Our last frost date has become earlier.

**KEEP YOUR GARDEN GROWING—PLANT FROM SPRING TO FALL**

**Early spring**

Plant as soon as the ground can be worked:

**PLANTS**

Broccoli  
Cabbage

**SEEDS**

Endive  
Lettuce  
Onion sets  
Pea  
Radish  
Spinach  
Turnip

**Midspring**

Plant 2 wk. before the average last frost date:

**PLANTS**

Cauliflower

**SEEDS**

Beet  
Carrot  
Onion sets  
Parsnip  
Swiss chard

Plant 1 wk. later:

**SEEDS**

Bean  
Corn  
Early potatoes

**Early summer**

Plant when soil and sun are warm:

**PLANTS**

Eggplant  
Pepper  
Tomato

**SEEDS**

Cucumber  
Lima bean  
Melon  
Okra  
Pumpkin  
Squash  
Winter potatoes

**Midsummer to fall**

Plant in late June:

**SEEDS**

Beet  
Broccoli  
Cabbage  
Carrot  
Cauliflower  
Lettuce  
Radish

Plant in early Aug.:

**PLANTS**

Broccoli\*  
Cabbage\*  
Cauliflower\*

**SEEDS**

Lettuce  
Spinach  
Turnip

Plant 10 wk. before first killing frost:

**SEEDS**

Beets  
Carrot

\* Plants are set out later than seeds are sown because hot weather is not favorable to good growth.

Submitted by Maxine Thompson

For more gardening advice contact us at: [pecmastergardeners@gmail.com](mailto:pecmastergardeners@gmail.com)

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