

Bountiful Vegetable Gardening



If you have never had a vegetable garden before, this may be the year to devote a part of your garden to vegetables. It's hard to beat the fresh flavor and high nutritional value of vegetables harvested directly from your own garden.

As well, with world conditions the way they are, it's probably wise to have a few fresh vegetables handy.



Planning

Take a little time in planning, before you decide where you are going to locate your vegetable garden. Then once you have decided on a spot, it is important to select which crops you want to grow. Next, you need to decide where they fit best in the garden layout. By proper planning, followed by wise planting at the beginning of the season, you are more apt to have a bountiful harvest this summer and fall. So here are a few ideas on how to get started.

Location

Choose the sunniest, brightest spot in the whole yard. If there is not such a spot, choose the next sunniest spot, avoiding any areas that are too shady, as leaf-crops are about the only thing that will grow in limited sun.

Clear the area of any debris and weeds, and strip away the sod. Use a spade or fork to dig the soil to a depth of 12 to 14 in., incorporating a 3- to 4-in. layer of compost or rotted manure, along with any amendments recommended in your soil test. Rake the soil until it is level. Loose, well-aerated soil allows water and oxygen to reach the plants' roots quickly. If your soil is poor, consider building raised beds.

A healthy vegetable garden requires loamy, well-drained, nutrient-rich soil. Most vegetables prefer a slightly acidic soil (pH 6-6.8).

Layout

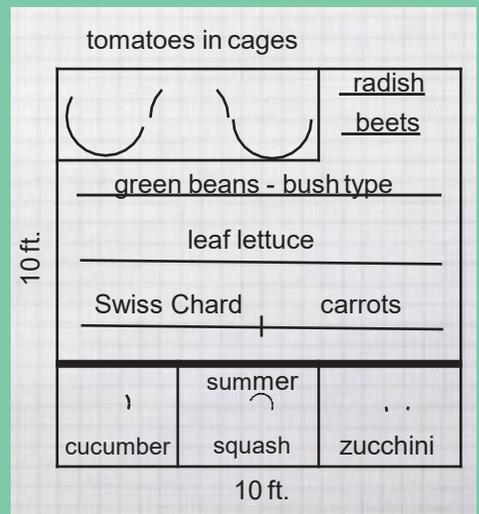
Now that you have decided on the location, which crops you are going to grow, it's time to decide where they best fit in the garden.

The tall crops such as peas, beans and corn, should be planted on the north side of the vegetable garden. In this way they will not shade the rest of the vegetable crops. Choose compact varieties if you have limited space.

In the center of the vegetable garden area, plant the medium sized crops such as cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, tomatoes, squash, pumpkins and other medium sized crops.

Then at the very southern end of the garden is where the low growing crops like radishes, carrots, beets, lettuce, onions and other low growing ones are planted.

Whenever possible, the rows in the vegetable garden should run north and



south, for best sun exposure and air circulation. If the rows run east and west the first row tends to shade the second row, the second row the third and so forth.

Start small: You can always dig more beds or enlarge existing ones in subsequent years.

By taking a little time in planning the layout of your vegetable garden now, before planting, your chances of harvesting a more bountiful yield this summer and fall are greatly increased.



TONAWANDA
2121 Sheridan Drive (Between Colvin & Belmont)
(716) 876-2121

www.norhtowngardencenter.com