

Reaping Your Rewards

Veggie	Days to harvest
beans, lima	65-90
beans, snap	60-70
beets	60-80
broccoli	55-75
cabbage	65-95
cauliflower	50-95
carrots	65-85
cucumbers	50-70
eggplant	70-80
lettuce, head	70-85
lettuce, leaf	45-55
muskmelon	80-90
okra	50-60
onion (sets)	90
onion plants	90+
peas	55-70
peppers	60-80
potatoes	110+
potatoes, sweet	150
pumpkins	110+
radishes	25-30
rutabaga	90-95
spinach	40-50
squash (summer)	45-60
squash (winter)	90+
sweet corn	65-95
tomatoes	60-90
turnips	40-60
watermelon	85-95

Sharp-edged spade – for turning soil and incorporating organic matter.

Bow rake – for smoothing soil, removing stones and breaking up clods

Straight rake – used to smooth seed beds and to tamp soil over freshly sown seed.

Square-bladed field hoe – used for many garden jobs.

Pointed hoe – used for opening furrows and for cultivating between plants.

Trowel – used for transplanting seedlings

Hand Cultivator – used for working around plants and breaking up clods.

Watering can – for transplanting.

Garden hose, soaker hoses and sprinklers – for general watering.

Tiller – Tillers with rear tines is easier to use than one with tines in the front.

Wheelbarrow or Garden Cart – makes moving soil, stones, tools, and harvest much easier.

Spreaders – for lime and fertilizer application.



For more information and other helpful educational materials, contact:

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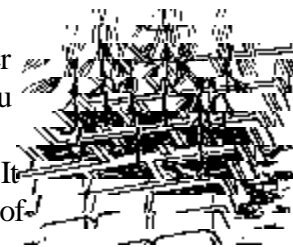
Green Tips

Plant and Grow Guides

Planting (GT 113)

Planting the right varieties can make the difference between satisfaction and disappointment in gardening. Be sure to select what the family **LIKES** to eat. Beginners should start with easy-to-grow varieties, such as tomatoes, zucchini, corn, and beans. More difficult varieties, such as watermelon and head lettuce, may need a little more experience. Many vegetables do best if they are started indoors rather than being planted directly into garden soil. Seedlings started in containers indoors can be transplanted to the garden as soon as the danger of frost is past. Here are some tips:

- Buy disease-resistant seed varieties recommended for growing in Michigan's climate.
- To produce good, sturdy plants, you need 12-14 hours of light a day. Unless you have a greenhouse, you'll need supplemental fluorescent lighting to augment the sun.
- Start your seeds in any container that has proper drainage. Start about 6-8 weeks before you want to move them to the garden
- Select a potting mixture rich with nutrients. It should contain approximately equal amounts of sphagnum peat, potting soil and vermiculite.
- Periodic use of liquid fertilizer will keep young seedlings growing vigorously. Fertilize lightly but often - "weekly weakly".
- Place young seedlings outdoors in the shade for a few days to a week to harden them off before planting them in direct sunlight.



Some gardeners have neither the time nor the space to raise their own transplants. You can usually buy better quality plants than you can grow.

- Select short, stocky plants with lots of leaves but without flowers or fruit.
- Avoid yellowed, spindly or overly tall plants.
- Choose recommended or familiar varieties.
- Buy plants a week before planting them. Use this week to acclimate them to the outdoor sun and temperature.

Preparing Your Garden:

Before planting can begin, the soil of your garden site must be properly prepared.

- Have your soil tested in Fall or Winter so that you know what nutrients to add. Don not add lime unless indicated.

- If you have a problem with perennial weeds, such as quackgrass, treat them before tilling the soil.

– Glyphosate (Round-up and similar products) is an excellent material for this.

- If lime, sulphur or fertilizers are to be added, apply them before tilling.

- Turn over the soil to a depth of 18 to 24 inches, and amend it well with fertilizer, compost and/or peat.

- Make sure that any rocks are out of the bed and that the larger clumps of dirt have been broken up. This is especially important if you plan on growing root crops such as carrots or beets.

- To preserve soil texture, avoid tilling or plowing when the soil is too moist.



Planting from Seed:

ome of the most popular vegetables can be successfully grown from seeds planted directly in the garden. These include leaf lettuce, radishes, carrots, beets, peas, beans, corn, and zucchini. For best results, follow these simple procedures.

1. Prepare the amount of soil you intend to plant within a few days, so the weeds don't get a head start.
2. For an easy-to-care-for garden, plant straight rows. Place a stake at each end of a row, and tie a taut string from one to another. Create straight furrows by pulling a hoe along the string from one stake to the other.
3. Furrow depth depends on seed size. Place large seeds one by one in the row, 1-2 inches deep. Take a pinch of small seeds and sprinkle thinly down the row, 1/4-1/2 inch deep.
4. Cover the seed and tamp gently with the flat of a hoe blade.
5. Water lightly to insure that seeds get a good start.

Whether you have purchased your seedlings or raised them yourself, they should be transplanted out into the garden as soon as the danger of frost is passed. Allow a short transition period outdoors before making the big move.

1. Transplant seedlings in the evening or on a cloudy day so they are not dried out by the heat of the sun.
2. Remove each seedling from it's pot as you get ready to plant it. Do not de-pot several plants in advance their tiny hair roots will dry out while they wait.
3. Keep as much of the plant's growing medium around the roots as possible.
4. Set plants in rows at the same depth that they were in the containers.
5. Firm soil around the plant gently by hand. Create a circle mound around the plant to hold water near the roots.
6. Water new transplants gently but thoroughly, using a starter solution rich in nutrients (especially phosphorus).

