

Welcome to “Starting a Vegetable Garden”!

We will be starting momentarily



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Topics we will cover

1. Should I be organic or non-organic?
2. What can I grow where I live?
3. Where to place your garden?
4. How big should the garden be?
5. Design a layout
6. What do I need to buy?
7. Setting up the space
8. Planting some vegetables
9. Maintaining your garden all summer long
10. What to do in the fall



1. Should I be organic or non-organic?

“without the use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, or other artificial agents”

- **Eat more local: reduce fossil fuels**
- **Concern for the environment**
- **Garden as part of an ecosystem:** providing habitat, shelter and food sources for a variety of creatures
- **Experience a deeper connection with nature**
- **Enjoy a healthier and a larger variety of produce**
- **Build a stronger connection with your food**
- **Improve physical and mental well being**
- **Be a lifelong learner**
- **Save money**
- **Experiment!**
- **Preserve traditions**



KEY ELEMENTS:

- **SOIL:** purchase organic topsoil & compost
- **FERTILITY:** purchase organic fertilizers
- **WEED MANAGEMENT:** hand pull weeds, use mulch to prevent weeds
- **PEST & DISEASE MANAGEMENT:** purchase organic pest control (if needed), rotate your crops each year



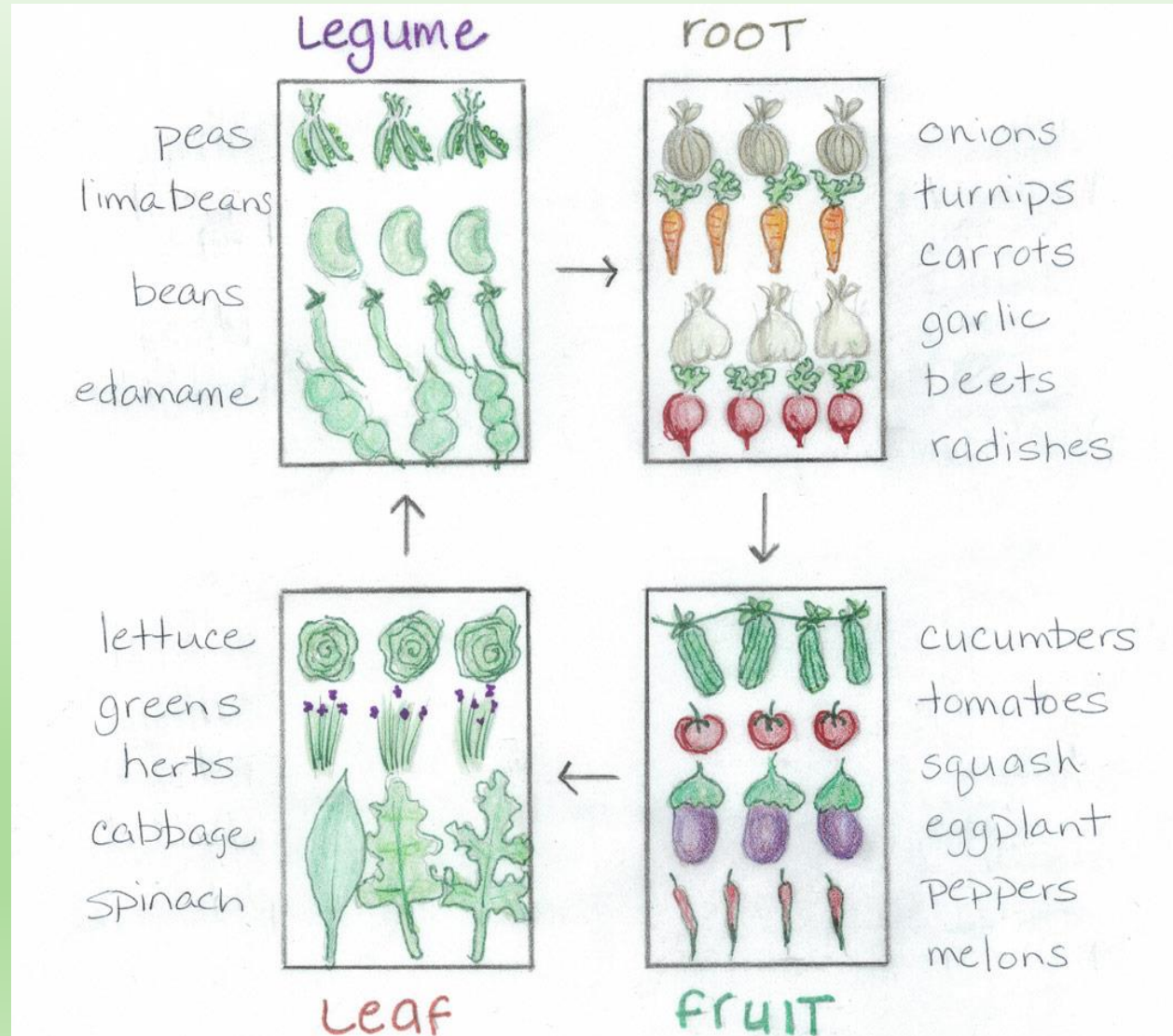
Crop Rotation:

Not planting same crops in same spot every year



1. Adds Nitrogen

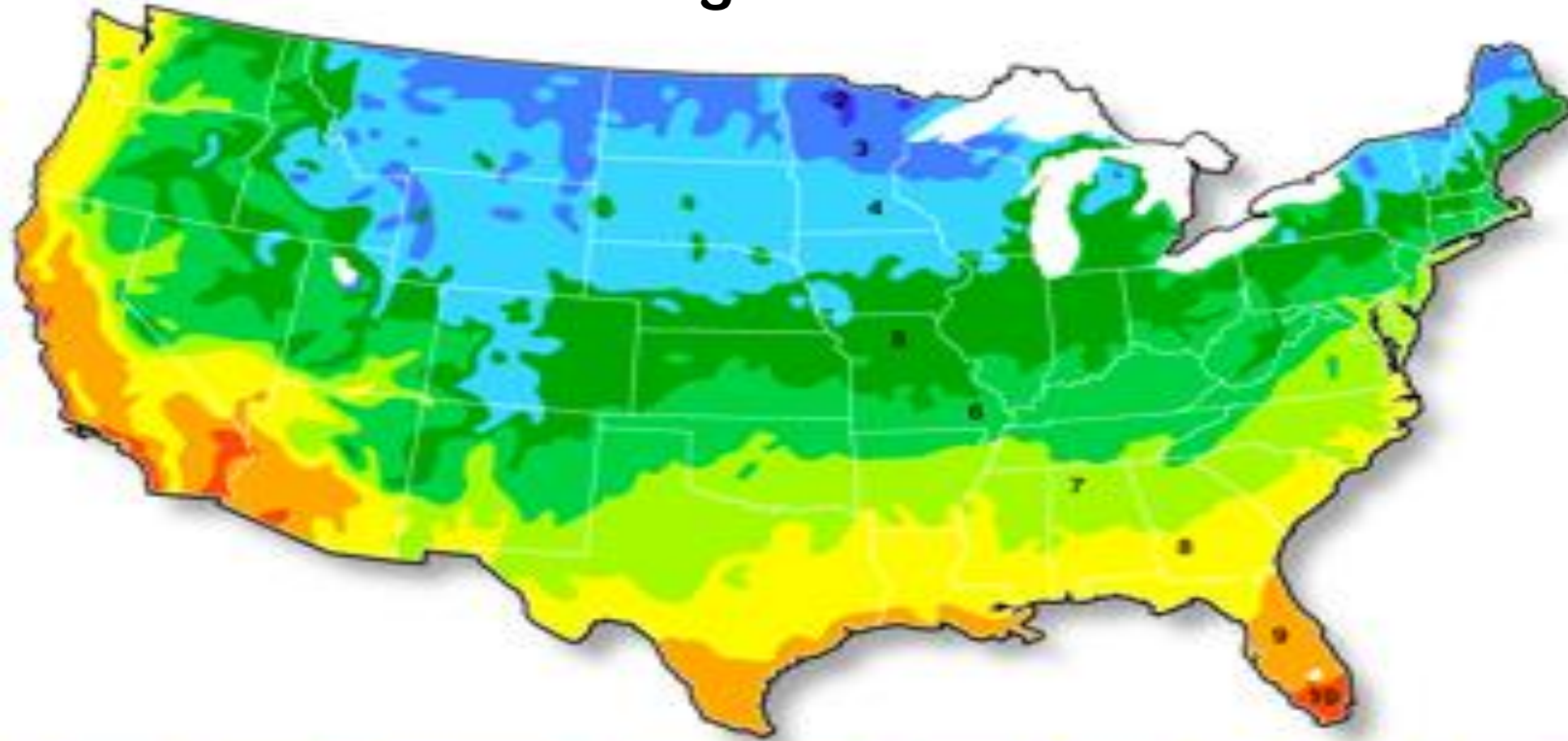
2. Need lots of Nitrogen



4. Need less Nitrogen, light feeders

3. Need less Nitrogen, Phosphorous promotes flowering

2. What can I grow where I live?



Last frost date: ~May 15

First frost date: ~October 15

Length of growing season: ~170 days



SO MUCH!!



3. Where to place your garden?



Raise your beds... with or without wood



4. How big should the garden be?

Start small- you can always expand
Decide what to grow first








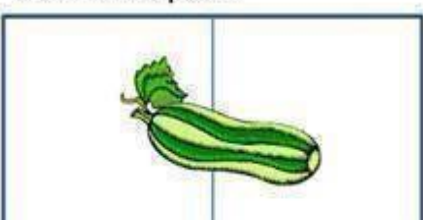


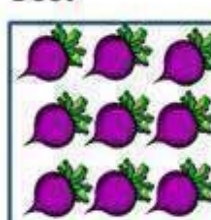






Things to Consider...

1. Grow what you eat
2. Grow what's easy
3. Grow what you can't buy
4. Grow what saves you money
5. Try something new



Plant Spacing



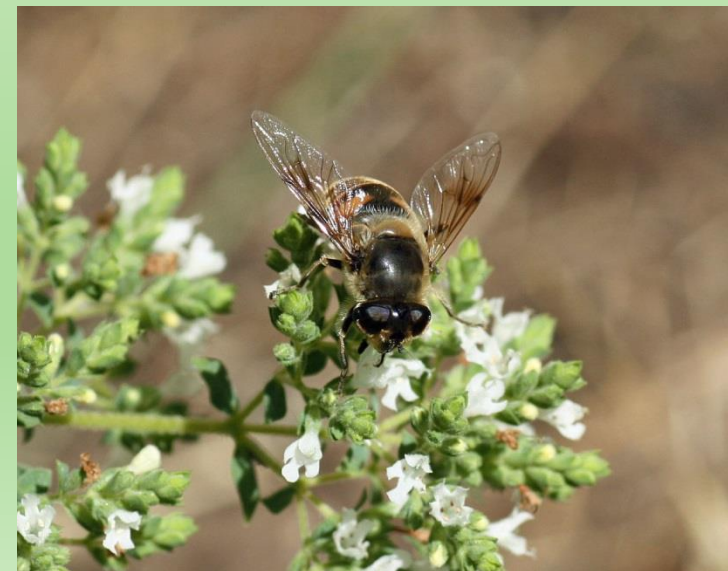
XL <i>1 plant per 2 square feet</i>	L <i>1 plant</i>	M <i>4 plants</i>	S <i>9 plants</i>	XS <i>16 plants</i>
Watermelon 	Tomato 	Lettuce 	Bush bean 	Radish 
Zucchini squash 	Eggplant 	Basil 	Beet 	Carrot 
Pumpkin 	Broccoli 	Marigold 	Spinach 	Onions 
Melon Winter squash Summer squash	Cabbage Cauliflower Cucumber Okra Pepper	Corn Parsley Potato Strawberry Turnip	homesteadingsurvival.com	



Perhaps add some herbs or flowers to attract bees?



- Borage
- Catmint
- Chives
- Comfrey
- Hyssop
- Lavender
- Sage
- Thyme
- Marjoram
- Mint
- Lemon balm
- Fennel
- Rosemary
- Wild bergamot
- Basil



5. Design a layout



Things to think about bed layout....



- 1. Beds as wide as you can reach comfortably from each side.**
 - 2-4 foot wide raised beds (make sure can reach all plants)
- 2. Leave room for foot paths or a wheelbarrow.**
 - 1.5-4 foot wide paths (Make sure you can kneel down comfortably!)



6. What do I need to buy?

\$\$ Don't spend too much money in year 1! \$\$

1. Soil- Use the ground! Add some if needed.
2. Compost- add up to 50% in year 1
3. Wood
 - Non-treated lumber
 - 2x6 is a good size
 - Exterior screws
4. Fertilizer? Small bag of all purpose granular, organic fertilizer.
5. Fencing?
 - Chicken wire & t-posts are cheap options
6. Straw? You can use leaves and dried grass which are free!





*Get yourself
some tools!*



Our Favorite Garden Tools



Trowel: General planting & weeding

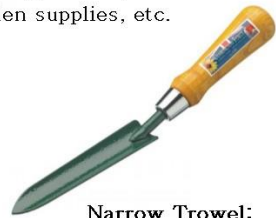
Stirrup Hoe: Stand-up weeding on paths or between plants



Kneeler: Protects knees & pants



Tub Trug: Carting weeds, produce, garden supplies, etc.



Narrow Trowel: Great for deep rooted weeds such as dandelions



Nozzle: Choose one with various settings including a gentle spray for baby plants.



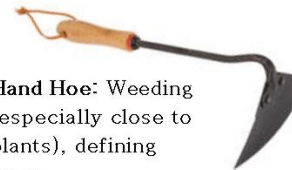
Cultivator: Weeding, smoothing soil, defining rows



Pitch Fork: Larger weeding; breaking compacted areas



Gloves: Nitrile dipped are preferable



Hand Hoe: Weeding (especially close to plants), defining rows



Hand Snips: Cutting spent plants & diseased leaves, harvesting greens, broccoli, etc

7. Setting up the space

Step by step...

- Mark out your growing space and your pathways
- Dig up the planting area- turn in the grass
- If building a bed: build the wood around the dug up area
- Add in compost
 - 4'x8'x6 inch garden bed= 16 cubic feet
 - Add about 1/3 to 1/2 compost (5-8 cubic feet)
- If you need to raise the level: add some topsoil (bagged or bulk)
- Wait about 2 weeks until you plant to allow the grass to decompose





8. Planting some vegetables

Crops that do better as transplants:

- Broccoli
- Cabbage
- Cauliflower
- Kale
- Collard greens
- Brussels sprouts
- Celery
- Leeks
- Tomato
- Pepper
- Eggplant
- Basil
- Onion
- Most herbs

Should I use

TRANSPLANTS or **SEEDS?**

Optional: transplants or direct seed

- Summer & winter squash
- Cucumber
- Melon
- Beans
- Lettuce

Recommended to direct seed:

- Beets
- Carrot
- Radish
- Peas
- Arugula
- Spinach

When do I plant in our zone?



Cool Season Crop

Broccoli

Brussels sprouts

Cabbage

Kale

Collard greens

Turnips

Beets

Carrots

Radish

Swiss chard

Spinach

Peas

Lettuce

Parsley

Safe to
plant by
mid-late
April

Warm Season Crops:

Tomatoes

Eggplant

Peppers

Basil

Sweet potatoes

Beans

Cucumbers

Corn

Melon






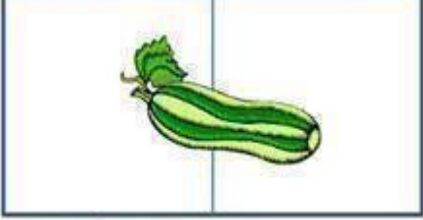


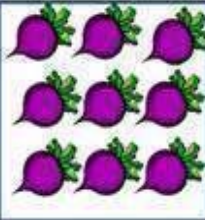






Summer squash

Winter squash & pumpkin

Must
wait
until
after
May 15

Plant Spacing



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9. Maintaining your garden all summer long



Tips for a successful garden

- Do not bite off more than you can chew
- Schedule 15-30 minute gardening sessions a couple times a week
- If something fails, pull it out and don't worry about it
- Eat the fruits of your labor!
- Take 5 minutes at the start of each gardening session to pull weeds
- Ask for help if you need it



10. What to do in the fall

Amend with compost: 1-2 inches each fall

Protect your soil: cover with mulch



Most important rule: HAVE FUN!!



Happy Gardening

