

become more compacted. The soil is just right when a handful easily breaks apart in your hand.

## Planting

When planting in early spring, plant during the warmest part of the day. Once in the garden, protect seedlings from wind, sun, frosts and insects. A **frost blanket**, will help keep moisture in and also protect from cold and frost. This can also be used during the summer months to protect young cool-season plants from the heat. The **Wall-o-water** can also be used to protect individual plants from cold night temperatures, and plants will mature much faster. The water stored in these plastic frames store heat from the sun's rays during the day to provide insulation at night. When watering, remember to water around the plant rather than on top so as not to damage your seedlings.



## Quick Guide

	Planting Dates	Critical Times to Water	When to Fertilize
Beans	3/15-4/7	When flowers form and during pod-forming and picking	After heavy bloom and set of pods
Broccoli	3/7-31	Continually for 4 weeks after transplanting	Three weeks after transplanting
Cabbage	3/7-4/15	Frequently in dry weather	Three weeks after transplanting
Cauliflower	3/15-4/7	Frequently	Three weeks after transplanting
Corn	4/1-17	When tassels form and when cobs swell	When 8-10 inches tall and again when silk first appears

## Quick Guide (cont.)

	Planting Dates	Critical Times to Water	When to Fertilize
Cucumbers	4/7-5/15	Frequently	One week after blossoming and again three weeks later
Onion Sets	3/1-31	In early stage if weather is dry	When bulbs begin to swell and again when plants are one foot tall
Peas	3/7-31	When flowers form and during pod-forming and picking	After heavy bloom and set of pods
Potatoes	4/1-30	When the size of marbles	At blossom time or time of second hilling
Squash (all types)	4/15-30	Frequently	Just before vines start to run, when plants are about one foot tall
Tomatoes	4/7-30	For 3 to 4 weeks after transplanting and when flowers and fruit form	1 to 2 weeks before first picking and again two weeks after first picking



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grow your own vegetables



garden

# fresh & healthy



## Planting a Vegetable Garden

Homegrown vegetables have a flavor unmatched by those you buy. And even a small garden can produce enough to be worthwhile.

## Choosing a Site

The basic requirements for a vegetable patch are an open area with good drainage, plenty of sunlight (6 or more hours a day) and a nearby supply of water. Choosing the size of your garden should depend on how much time you wish to devote and the number of people you plan to feed. A 300 sq. ft. garden will adequately feed a family of four.

## Planning Your Garden

Succession plantings of fast-growing crops will add to the yield of your garden. Use 2-week intervals for staggered plantings. Also, start with the vegetables that stay in the ground the longest (70 days or more) and plant cool-season or short-term warm-season plants around them. Tall crops, like corn, should be planted so as not to shade smaller plants. And, sprawling crops, like melons, require ample growing space. Remember to rotate crops each year to different locations so as not to deplete the soil of certain nutrients. Ask one of our staff if you aren't sure what to rotate where.

## Analyze Your Site

To determine exactly what the soil in your garden needs, you must take a soil test. Our staff will help you read the results and determine what to add to your soil and how much. Generally, a pH of 6.0 to 7.0 is acceptable for vegetable gardening. If your pH is lower than this, your soil is too acidic and requires lime to be added. Our Tri City soil is low in organic matter. You will want to add organic matter to amend your soil, such as composted cow manure or our organic composts. Therefore, you will need to

add a well-balanced fertilizer like **5-10-5**, **10-10-10** or **Dr. Earth Organic Vegetable & Herb Fertilizer**.



## Preparing the Site

Remove debris and skin off any turf using a shovel or spade. Loosen the soil and throw off to the side of the row. Redig the same location, turning the soil in place. Use a gardening fork to break up and turn the soil. Break up clods so that there are none larger than the size of an apple. At this point, the organic amendment should be added, such as **Gardener & Bloome Harvest Supreme**. For larger garden areas we do have compost in bulk if you have a pickup, or we offer same day delivery service. After the entire area is finished, rake the beds to remove any remaining clods. Be sure the soil is not too wet, or soil will

