

SUSTAINABLE VEGETABLE GARDENING

SMART GARDENING FOR YOUR BEST VEGGIES

Growing vegetables can help to supplement seasonal food supplies, tweak the aesthetics of a landscape, or provide an activity for spending time with friends and family. A few simple techniques will ensure the best growth for your vegetables while reducing the amount of maintenance needed by you, decreasing demands on precious water supplies and other resources.



PLACEMENT: ACCESSIBILITY

Put your garden in a space by which you regularly walk, and plant your vegetables where you can easily reach them. A garden in your normal path, arranged in a way that allows access to all its plants, will help you to give your veggies the attention they need.

PLACEMENT: FOLLOW THE SUN

Plant vegetables where sunlight will hit them throughout the day. The illustration below shows how the sun's path changes over a year, causing daily shade coverage to change with it. Pay special attention to trees, buildings, fences, and other large objects that might cast shade on your growing vegetables as the sun moves across the sky throughout the year.



FOLLOW THE SEED PACKET

The tag on your vegetables should provide all the information you need to get it growing in the best area for its needs and your own. Select veggies whose tags reflect suitability for your region. That means paying close attention to the plant's adult size, light requirements, and water needs.



2 - 4 inches of mulch will lock water into your vegetables' soil. It will provide habitat for beneficial insects and a feeding ground for birds. Dead leaves make good mulch for vegetables.



Healthy soil is needed for strong vegetable growth. Compost and expanded shale are good general soil amendments, but test your soil for the most accurate portrait of your soil composition.

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR SOIL TEST INSTRUCTIONS



PLAN FOR THE SEASON

COOL



Cool season crops typically include plants whose leaves and root systems will be consumed, such as spinach, carrot and onion.

WARM



Warm season crops typically include plants whose fruit will be consumed, such as tomato, pepper and okra.

SELECTION



Scan the QR code for a guide to help you figure out which veggies are best for your area.

PLANTING



Scan the QR code for a seasonal vegetable planting schedule for your region.