



TIPS TO HAVING A SUCCESSFUL VEGETABLE GARDEN

Have you ever wanted to start a vegetable garden, but didn't know where to begin? Now is the time with a few helpful tips!

CHOOSE THE RIGHT LOCATION

A successful vegetable garden requires seven to eight hours of direct sunlight. If you have a spot in mind, check the sunlight a few times from sunrise to sunset to make sure they will be getting enough sun. Also, choose a spot that you are able to see daily to keep an eye on your garden.

FOUNDATION IS KEY

The foundation of a great garden is soil. If the soil isn't right, having a flourishing garden will be a constant battle. If your property doesn't have ideal soil, make a framed bed that can be placed on top of the ground or have a raised bed. Blend the following ingredients to make perfect soil: 50% high quality topsoil, 25% manure and 25% compost or humus. Fill the bed with the soil mixture to about 2 inches from the top of the bed then add a layer of mulch. Usually garden centers have a manure and humus mixture.

PLANTING SEEDS

When planting vegetables in framed beds, it's best if you don't line them up in traditional rows. Divide the bed into sections and plant the vegetables in blocks. Make sure to keep your vegetables labeled. It's helpful to know how big the plant will get to determine how much space they need. Make a hole with your finger and cover the seed with soil. Make sure there are no dirt clods or rocks. Water the area thoroughly using a gentle spray.

FOLLOW A WATERING SCHEDULE

It's crucial to keep your garden watered, especially in the hotter months. Water your plants once a day in the early morning, but skip it if it rained overnight. Too much water can drown your plants. Know your plants and how much water they need to flourish.

ROTATE

A rule every successful gardener follows is never grow the same crop in the same place. Once your crop has been harvested, change the location. Rotating crops helps avoid diseases that can threaten your crop.

FROST DATES

Check your location online for frost dates. There are certain windows when it is best to plant your crops. Most vegetables need to be planted outside after the last frost. You shouldn't start your garden before the last frost date. Check the back of the seed packet to see how many days is required for your vegetable to grow.

COMPOST

Compost is great for your vegetable garden but you'll want to use it in moderation. Generally adding one to three inches is enough. Make sure to blend the compost with the underlying soil.

HAPPY PLANTING!