

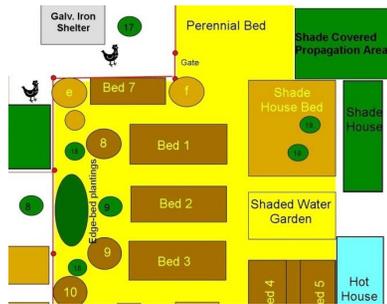
Tips...

Keep a diary of:

- Daily high and low temps
- First and last frosts
- Soil temperature

(Soil temp is very important for the health and vigor of your plants and knowing when to plant your starts)

Draw a map of your property



Draw a detailed map of your garden. This will help with plant spacing and problem solving.

Know your plants

When planting your garden, know what the root depth will be of each plant. Make sure water is penetrating deep enough. Allow enough space for each plant.

Watering

Water in the morning when the evaporation rate is the lowest. Avoid times of high wind. Water longer, less often. Dig in the soil to

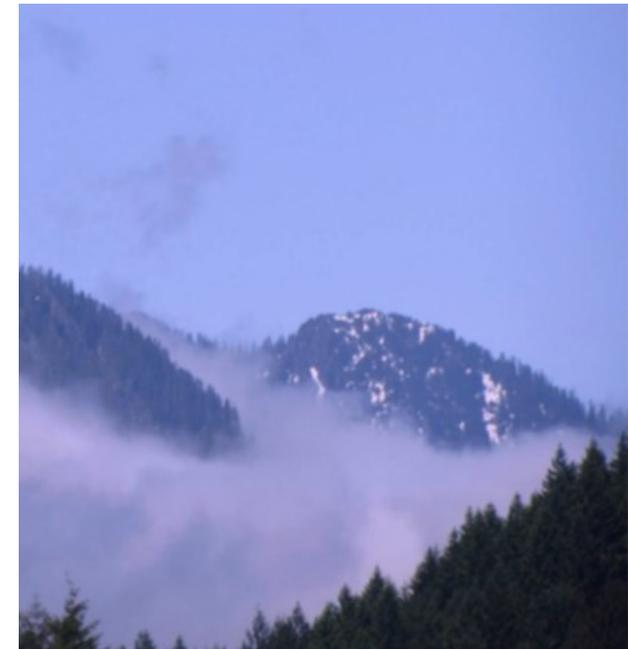
Vegetable Gardening in Upper Kittitas County

For more information
visit the Master Gardener
Diagnostic Clinic
May through September
Tuesdays 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

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MICRO CLIMATES

What is a Micro Climate?

WSU defines them as: “small-scale areas where local conditions may differ from those of the surrounding climate zone. Microclimates are created by local factors such as elevation and slope, proximity to mountains or foothills, location with respect to predominant wind and weather.”

Why does it matter?

Upper county locations all vary. It is important to look at your property and your micro climates. What are your positives and negatives? What things will work to your benefit, and what will you have to overcome?

What should I look for?

Understand your climate, and know your hardiness zone. Check out your soil. Look for bodies of water, rock walls, trees, location of buildings, altitude, dips in property and hills.

Why does it matter?

Knowing the hardiness will let your plants thrive in the heat and in the cold. Understanding your property will let you know the areas protected from wind, shaded from trees, and direct sun. You will also need to consider elevation. Is this an area where frost will settle?

BEDS

Where will you plant your garden?

Using the information you have gathered from surveying your property, you can start to think where your garden will go. Soil quality, access, and watering are all things to keep in mind when creating a location.

What are my options?

Raised Beds are a great option if you are limited on space because they have a high yield per square foot. Using container gardens will give you control of soil, watering, weeding, and location of placement.

Vertical Gardens are another great option that can be put in raised beds or straight in the ground. Depending on the plant, they can be a wind break or provide shade. They are also great space savers.

Row Beds are great if you are blessed with lots of space and great farming soil. These can be planted in mounds or on flat soil.

Starting sooner and lasting longer

Our growing season starts late and ends early. **Cold frames, hoop houses, row protectors** and **greenhouses** are great tools to start gardening sooner. It is key to know the germination time of each seed and plan a time table of when they will go in the ground.

WATERING

Be an effective “Waterer!”

If you have a little or a lot its important not to waste it.

What are my options?

Research shows that, while **Overhead Sprinklers** can be affordable, they have a much higher evaporation rate and don't penetrate as deeply as other options. It has also been shown that overhead sprinkling produces 50% more weeds than other methods.

Soaker Hoses have less evaporation than sprinklers, and are affordable. They can be dug into the



ground or placed on the surface.