



Vegetable Gardening: Master Gardener Class

The Seasons of the Garden

Spring

- Site Selection and Design
- Seeds
- Soil
- Spring Crops

Summer

- Summer Care for the Garden
- Succession Planting
- Summer Crops

Fall

- Season Extension
- Cover crops
- Storage
- Seed Saving
- Fall Crops

Jennifer Jensen
UI Extension, Bonner County
[uidaho.edu/extension/county/
bonner .edu](http://uidaho.edu/extension/county/bonner.edu)
208-263-8511
jenjensen@uidaho.edu



University of Idaho
Extension

Spring

Site Selection

- Sunlight
- Topography
- Soil
- Access

Design—Garden Styles

Container Vegetable Gardens

- Container Size
 - 14” pots = single peppers, eggplants, cucumbers
 - 20” pots = single tomato plants
- Potting Soil
 - Bulkier material will degrade more slowly
 - Well drained
- Pot Friendly Vegetable Varieties
 - Cucumbers, peppers, tomatoes, carrots, radish, lettuce, and herbs
- Water until it flows out the bottom
- Add slow release fertilizer as needed

It is U of I policy to prohibit and eliminate discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation and gender identity/expression, age, disability, or status as a Vietnam-era veteran. This policy applies to all programs, services, and facilities, and includes, but is not limited to, applications, admissions, access to programs and services, and employment.



Design—Garden Styles

Square Foot Gardening by Mel Bartholomew

- <https://squarefootgardening.org/>

Raised Bed Gardening

- Advantages
 - Avoid native soil problems
 - Soil warms more quickly in the spring
 - More accessible for some gardeners
- Size—You should be able to at least reach the center of the bed comfortably
- Materials
 - Wood
 - Cement Block
 - Plastic Lumber
 - Stone or brick
- Soil
 - 1 part native to 1 part compost
 - Potting soil mad for raised beds
- Plant spacing is closer than a traditional row garden to make the most efficient use of the space.

Vertical Gardening

- Sprawling plants can be trellised
- Materials and Styles
 - Fencing
 - Pyramids/cones
 - T-posts

Interplanting

Succession and Relay Planting

Design—Garden Styles

Edible Gardening

- Edible look-a-likes
 - Sea kale vs. edible kale
 - Ligularia vs. zucchini
- RESOURCE: Designing an Edible Landscape in Idaho BUL 921

Traditional Row Cropping

- Single Row Planting
- Wide Row Planting

Seeds

How Much to Grow

	Amount for one adult (fresh)		People in my family consuming this	Amount to plant feet of row	Final Plant Spacing Inches	Number of plants
	avg. lbs. eaten	Feet of Row				
Broccoli	5	7	4	28	20	17
Carrots	10	10	4	40	2	240
Cucumber	4	5	4	20	18	13
Lettuce, leaf	5	10	2	20	6	40
Peas	4	13	4	52	3	208
Sweet Corn	5	17	4	68	10	82
Tomatoes	24	15	2	30	24	15

Seeds

Buying Seeds

- Use a reputable seed company

Storing Seeds

- Seed longevity/testing germination

Soil

Soil testing

- pH
- Organic Matter
 - Compost
 - Green manure/cover crops
- Nutrients
 - Requirements vary by crops
 - Nitrogen
 - Phosphorus
 - Potassium
- Living organisms in the soil
- Tillage/no tillage

Growing Spring Crops

Planting Seeds Indoors

- Set up sowing calendar
- Propagation set up
 - Light
 - Heat
 - Soil
 - Irrigation

Direct Seeding

- Soil temperature
- Irrigation
- Seeding tools
- Thinning

Transplants

- Hardening off
- Avoid hot sunny days
- Irrigate
- Fertilize

Spring Crops

Planting Outside

- Plant 4-6 weeks before last frost
 - Spinach
 - Radishes
 - Lettuce
 - Swiss Chard
 - Mustard
 - Peas
- Plant 1-4 weeks before last frost
 - Carrots
 - Beets
 - Cabbage transplants
 - Broccoli transplants
 - Onion transplants
- Plant just after last frost
 - Corn
 - Potatoes
- Plant 0-2 weeks after last frost
 - Beans
 - Squash
 - Celery transplants
 - Tomato transplants
 - Cucumber
 - Melons
 - Peppers

Summer

Summer Care for the Garden

Irrigation

- Water the whole root zone
 - 2 inches of water per week
- Methods
 - Overhead Sprinklers
 - Drip irrigation
 - Soaker hoses
- Mulch

Summer

Summer Care for the Garden

Weed Control

- Why? - Competition and weed seeds
- Methods
 - Cultivation
 - Mulch
 - Close spacing
 - Cover crops

Pest Control

- Cleanliness/Exclusion
- Maintain healthy plants
- Barriers
- Beneficial insects
- Pesticide

Summer Crops

Consider succession planting

- Lettuce
- Spinach
- Radish
- Carrots

Fall

Season Extension

Benefits

- Length of growth season
- Hotter summer days (greater heat units)

Structures

- High Tunnels
- Hoop Houses
- Low Tunnels
- Row Cover/Frost Cloth

Fall cover Crops

Plant times

- Varies by species, but try to get a fair amount of growth before first hard frost
- Interplant with existing crops if they are still producing.

Produce Harvest & Storage

Resources

- Harvesting and Storing Fresh Garden Vegetables BUL 617 University of Idaho
- Storing Vegetables and Fruits at Home EB1326E Washington State University

Harvest at the correct maturity stage

- Examples
 - Sweet Corn—juice from punctured kernel should appear opaque. This is often about 20 days after the appearance of the first silk strand
 - Onions—for dry storage, harvest when 20-50% of the tops have fallen over.

Seed Saving

Factors to keep in mind

- Cultivar type
 - Hybrids produce seed that does not breed true
 - Open pollinated varieties will breed true
 - Self pollinated crops will likely pollinate their own flowers to avoid crossing of cultivars
 - Cross pollinated flowers must be isolated or hand pollinated to prevent cross pollination with an unwanted cultivar.
- Seeds can carry disease in to next year's crop
- Do not harvest a biennial crops seeds until the following season.

Fall Crops

Time for planting

- Garlic
- Over wintering crops in a season extension structure

Thank You

Happy Vegetable Gardening!