



HOW TO CHOOSE WHAT TO GROW

Vegetable and herb gardeners in suburban areas need to get the most out of their garden using the least amount of space with the least amount of work.

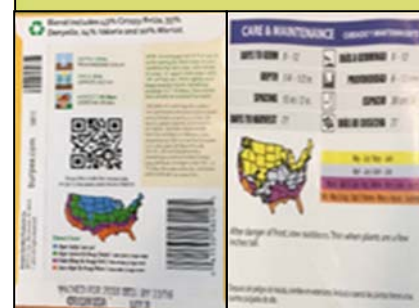
Planning the vegetable and herb garden

Answering these questions may help plan your vegetable and herb garden to suit your family needs and values.

- How many are in your family?
- What vegetables and herbs does your family like to eat?
- Whether you want to garden for eating fresh from the garden, and/or eating fresh and preserving by canning or freezing?
- How much time do you have to garden?
- Who will be maintaining the garden?
- What space is available for the garden?
- How much space is needed between each kind of plant including room for pathways around the bed(s) for easy access to plant, water and maintain the bed(s)? Use the back of seed packets, seed catalogs, and the information on the transplant container.
- How much food can you get from each plant and do you want to plant more than one of that plant?
- How much do you save from growing your own plants? But fun also counts. Which plants are best planted as seeds or as transplants?
- Which varieties of plants to choose for disease and wilt resistance? For information on this use seed packet, garden catalogs, and Master Gardeners from the area. Your seed packet will tell when to plant, how long to harvest, and often the size of the plant or harvest information.



Seed packets give you most of the information you need.



Other important factors to know for the Tri-Cities area

Frost free days is usually 180 days from mid-April-to mid-October, but it could vary two to three weeks on each side of this time frame.

Warm and Cool Season Vegetables and Herbs



Vegetables and herbs are divided into warm-season (summer) crops and cool-season (fall/winter/spring) crops. Many warm-season vegetable crops need a longer growing season or a warmer temperature. There are many cool vegetables that can be planted in early to mid-spring. Of course, whether they germinate (start to grow) and survive depends on the soil temperature, nighttime low temperatures, and adequate moisture.

Even though seed packets and catalogs can list a long planting window, plants respond to soil temperatures and weather conditions. Seeds will germinate (start to grow) when the soil is moist, and the temperature is warm enough. That would be approximately 40-50°F for cool season crops and 70-85°F for warm season crops.

The most important thing in vegetable and herb gardening is to plant what you and your family want to eat.

For more information see [EM057E Home Vegetable Gardening in Washington](#).

<http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/EM057E/EM057E.pdf>



WHEN TO PLANT VEGETABLES IN EASTERN WASHINGTON

	Start Seeds Indoors	Sow Seeds Outside	Transplant	Days to Germinate	Days to Harvest	Fall Seed Outside	Production	Value
COOL SEASON								
Beets	N/A	March/April	N/A	8 - 10	45 - 60	June/July	High	Medium
Broccoli	February/March	March 14-April 15	April	10 - 14	60 - 80	July	High	High
Carrot	N/A	March 14-April 15	N/A	14 - 25	60 - 80	June - August	High	Medium
Cauliflower	February/March	April	March/April	8 - 10	65 - 80	July	Medium	High
Cilantro	March	April	April	14 - 21	60 - 90	June/July	Medium	High
Kale	February/March	April	March/April	8 - 12	60	July/August	High	High
Lettuce	February/March	March/April	March/April	4 - 10	45 - 60	June - August	Medium	High
Onion	February/March	March 14-April 15	April	10 - 15	90 - 100	June/July	High	High
Peas	N/A	March/April	N/A	8 - 12	55 - 85	July	Medium	High
Radish	N/A	March/April	N/A	4 - 10	25 - 40	July/August	High	Medium
Spinach	February	March/April	March/April	8 - 10	45	August	Medium	Medium
WARM SEASON								
Bush Beans	N/A	April 25	N/A	7 - 14	50 - 70	June/July	High	Medium
Cucumber	early April	April 25	April 25	7 - 10	55 - 65	June/July	Medium	High
Pepper	February/March	N/A	May	10 - 12	60 - 90	N/A	Medium	High
Tomato	February/March	N/A	May	7 - 10	70 - 90	N/A	Medium	High
Zucchini	early April	April 25	May	7 - 10	50 - 60	N/A	High	High

Adapted from: Miles, C., Sterrett, M., Hesnault, L., Benedict, C., Daniels, C. 2013. Home Vegetable Gardening in Washington. WSU Publications. EM057E. www.pubs.wsu.edu