

# Introduction to Vegetable Gardening

## GARDEN DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS

- Start with smaller gardens and increase over time
- Align garden beds from east-to-west to get the most sun
- Limit garden depth to 3-4 feet to make it easy to weed and harvest
- Plan 2-foot wide paths between garden beds to make care easier

## VEGETABLE GUIDE

	<b>Cool Season Crops</b> <i>(Seeds, mid/late-April)</i>	<b>Tender Crops</b> <i>(Seeds, mid/late-May)</i>	<b>Warm Season Crops</b> <i>(Transplants, late-May)</i>
<b>Full Sun</b> <i>(8+ hours per day)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Cabbage Family* <i>(broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, kale)</i></li> <li>– Onions*</li> <li>– Peas*</li> <li>– Roots* <i>(beets, carrots, parsnips, radish)</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Corn</li> <li>– Cucumbers</li> <li>– Melons</li> <li>– Pumpkins</li> <li>– Summer squash</li> <li>– Winter squash</li> <li>– Zucchini</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Eggplant</li> <li>– Herbs <i>(basil, dill, lavender, oregano, rosemary, sage, thyme)</i></li> <li>– Peppers <i>(bell, hot, sweet)</i></li> <li>– Tomatoes</li> </ul>
<b>Part Sun</b> <i>(4-6 hours per day)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Herbs <i>(cilantro, mint, parsley)</i></li> <li>– Salad Greens <i>(lettuce, spinach)</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Beans*</li> <li>– Potato*</li> <li>– Swiss Chard</li> </ul>	

\* These vegetables will tolerate part-sun but will grow faster/better in full sun.

## CARING FOR YOUR VEGETABLES

- **Visit regularly** – Create a schedule and plan to visit more often during hot and dry times
- **Water as needed** – Water deeply when needed and focus on the roots of the plants
- **Keep soil covered** – A simple mulch of straw or dried leaves will keep weeds down, slow water evaporation, and control fungus & bacteria spread; avoid using wood chips
- **Check for plant damage & pests** – Browned or yellowed leaves, spots, holes, or tears in leaves, and cracked, soft, or holey fruit can indicate a problem (Identify the source of the problem before trying to solve it and use **Integrated Pest Management (IPM)** methods as a less invasive solution before researching pesticide options)
- **Harvest ripe vegetables** – Pick vegetables as they ripen for the best flavor and nutrition; read the seed packet to know what to look for and when to harvest
- **Take notes** – Keep a record to know what you did and what you want to try in the future

## **CLASS NOTES**

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### **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

How much sun does my garden area get?

Which vegetables do I like to eat?

Where will I get my plants?

What will I do if there are pests or problems?

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### **LEARN MORE WITH THESE RESOURCES**

- ❖ **Class Handouts & Resources** <https://www.ramseymastergardeners.org/sb-introveg>
- ❖ **University of MN Extension Program** [www.extension.umn.edu/garden/yard-garden](http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/yard-garden)
- ❖ **Ask a Master Gardener** <http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/ask/>
- ❖ **Extension Soil Testing Laboratory** <http://soiltest.cfans.umn.edu/>
- ❖ **Ramsey County Yard Waste Sites** <https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/recycling-waste/collection-sites/yard-waste>