



GET READY TO PLANT!



START YOUR VEGETABLE GARDEN RIGHT!

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Planning a vegetable garden takes a bit of thought, but it's worth considering all the key elements before you start. Read on to discover some helpful tips on how to plan a vegetable garden.

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When it comes to growing plants, garden soil vs. other soils is not a simple topic. There are many types of soil. They vary by content and purpose. Learn more about these "dirty" secrets!

DEMYSTIFYING GARDEN SOIL

TWO NEW PROGRAMS YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN

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GARDEN MENTORING



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MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR WISCONSIN GARDEN

START YOUR VEGETABLE GARDEN RIGHT!

Excerpts taken from Gardening Know-How newsletter. For access to the complete article . . .



➤➤➤ GROW VEGETABLES YOU WANT TO EAT

While this may seem obvious to some, there are those who think more is better and end up overplanting. Plan on growing what you will eat. BUT REMEMBER, your surplus crops can be placed in our refrigerator to be donated to a local area food pantry! During harvest season, garden volunteers transport our excess produce to the Boulder Junction Food Pantry each Thursday at noon. In past years we've donated over 400 lbs. of needed, fresh vegetables.

➤➤➤ PUT YOUR PLAN ON PAPER

Laying out your garden on paper might be the most important step in creating a garden, veggie or otherwise. Putting it all down on paper allows you to revise and add or subtract crops or other elements of the garden. Your plan should include garden size, space between crops and rows, planting dates, and seeded and transplanted crops.

➤➤➤ GIVE PLANTS ENOUGH ROOM



From the date we opened our community garden in 2019, we've been very fortunate to have a Master Gardener, Cheryl Pytlarz, provide an annual review/mentoring visit that has benefitted new and experienced gardeners alike. And at each visit Cheryl stresses avoiding the one habit gardeners have - she calls it "square INCH gardening" (placing seeds and plants too close together). **Allowing airflow between crops is extremely important. It aids with pollination and inhibits the transfer of diseases.**

➤➤➤ LEAVE ROOM TO ACCESS YOUR PLANTS

Throughout the growing season you will need to be able to weed, harvest, check for disease or pests, or to water or fertilize.

➤➤➤ CONSIDER THE PLACEMENT OF TALLER GROWING PLANTS

Place taller crops and those requiring trellising on the north side of the garden so they don't shade other crops. Group spring crops together so you will have room for a secondary planting when the first matures. Put pollinator-attracting plants along the sides of the garden where they will be undisturbed by working the soil for planting.

➤➤➤ AMEND YOUR SOIL BEFORE PLANTING

A VALUABLE TIP FROM MASTER GARDENER CHERYL PYTLARZ

Improving your garden soil with IN-THE-HOLE amendments!

In an existing garden, soil amendments typically are an ongoing task, even if it's as simple as digging in some compost prior to each year's plantings.

To help yield a healthy harvest, I recommend placing certain soil amendments **"in the hole" at planting time** for these various vegetables:

"IN THE HOLE" at planting	BLOODMEAL	BONEMEAL	CHICKEN POOP/MANURE	COMPOST	DIATOMACEOUS EARTH	FERTILIZER	LIME (to adjust pH)	WORM CASTINGS	TOP MULCH w/COMPOST	Protect from cabbage worm using Diatomaceous Earth on soil around stem & cover thru mid-June.	Protect from larva with row cover until first harvest.
ARTICHOKE	X			X	X		X	X	X		
BEETS							X				
BROCCOLI	X			X	X			X	X	X	
CABBAGE	X			X	X			X	X	X	
CANTELOPE	X							X			
CARROT	ASK SARAH KREMBS!										
CELERY			X					X	X		
CUCUMBER	X							X			
EGGPLANT		X						X	X		
KOHLRABI										X	
PEPPER		X	X					X			
RADISH											X
SPINACH							X				
SQUASH, WINTER	X							X			
TOMATO		X	X					X			
TURNIP											X

DEMYSTIFYING GARDEN SOIL

Excerpt taken from Gardening Know-How newsletter. For access to the complete article . . .



When it comes to growing plants, garden soil vs. other soils is not a simple topic. There are many types of soil. They vary by content, particle size, nutrients, additives, and purpose. Garden soil is one of many labels you will see at your local garden center among the bags of topsoil and potting soil.

WHAT IS GARDEN SOIL?

Any type of soil is a blend of silt clay, sand, and organic matter. Some soil mixes have other materials added, like perlite or sphagnum moss. These other materials are considered soilless. **Garden soil** is a mixture of true soil and soilless components. It is meant to be used in beds, mixed into existing soil in gardens, or used in very large containers.

GARDEN SOIL VS. POTTING SOIL

Garden soil and potting soil are very different and should not be used interchangeably. **Potting soil** – not to be confused with potting mix, which actually contains no soil – is a mixture of soil with a high organic matter content and soilless components. Potting soil is much lighter than garden soil. Garden soil can quickly become compacted and heavy, while potting soil remains light and aerated, allowing water to drain through it readily.

GARDEN SOIL VS. TOPSOIL

Topsoil is the least expensive and lowest quality soil you'll find in the garden center. The composition of **topsoil** varies a lot by product, but it is generally only used to fill in holes, create berms, level out garden areas, or otherwise change the structure of a yard or garden. It does not contain adequate nutrients or have good enough drainage or aeration to be used to grow plants unless mixed well with better soils.

HOW TO USE GARDEN SOIL

Consider garden soil the choice that falls between inexpensive, low-quality topsoil and expensive, high-quality potting soil. The best soil for raised garden beds is of good quality but not too expensive because you need a lot of it. Garden soil with a little organic matter or potting soil mixed in is a good choice.



