

Garden Talk

Vegetable Calendar

Vegetable gardens can be fun, relaxing and profitable. Prolific plants receive 5-7 hours of sun. Don't be afraid to add colored flowers like marigolds into the vegetable garden, or conversely, vegetables like peppers and strawberries into the perennial flower beds. Have fun even with your vegetable plants. Choose your varieties and plant in waves over several weeks so you don't have to harvest all fruits at the same time. Remember to plant tall crops like corn and okra on the north end of the garden so they do not over shadow shorter crops.

Soil Preparation - Vegetables produce best in a rich soil high in organic compost and manure, yet well draining. Raised beds and containers work great as well. Remove weeds, debris and rocks larger than a golf ball. Loosen the soil by turning a 3 inch layer of Watters "**Mulch**" into the garden one shovels depth. Blend the plant food directly into the soil at this stage. Watters "**Tomato & Vegetable Food**" 4-4-6 is an organic that releases over a very long period of time and promotes larger fruits and deep roots. Add Gypsum to the garden soil at this time as well.



Planting - Thoroughly wet the soil 2-3 days prior to planting. Smaller seed are often started indoors then transplanted into the garden. Increase the germination of seed like Spinach and Okra by soaking in warm water prior to planting. All seed will germinate better if planted in a pre-watered soil and then covered with a loose mixture of Watters "**Mulch**". Vegetable plants purchased from the garden center will typically be harvested a full 5-7 weeks earlier than seed. After planting, water plants or seed thoroughly with a solution of Watters "**Root & Grow**" to prevent shock and promote rapid root growth.



Water - Vegetables are thirsty. Hydrate plants prior to the heat of the day with at least 1 inch of water delivered per cycle. Healthy plants perform best with a deep root structure.

Fertilizing - Vegetables require large amounts of nutrients to produce large fruits. Keep up with their appetite by using Watters "**Tomato & Vegetable Food**" 4-4-6. This organic plant food promotes larger fruits and deeper roots. If symptoms of insects or disease occur in the garden spray the foliage with "Captain Jacks Dead Bug Brew". This organic liquid eliminates tomato worms, squash beetles and corn worms. Bring a plant sample or insect to the garden center for diagnosis and further advice.

Crop Rotation - Mile high gardeners know crop rotation is important. Planting the same crop in the same spot year after year will decrease vegetable production and increase the chances of disease and insect problems.

Variety	Best Mile High Planting Date	Row length needed for each person eating	Plants or seed needed per person
Asparagus	Mach 1 - April 30	10 - 15 ft.	10 crowns
Beans - Pole	May 5 - July 1	25 - 50 ft.	1/4 lb.
Beans - Bush	May 5 - July 15	15 - 25 ft.	1/8 lb.
Beans - Lima	May 5 - July 1	10 - 15 ft.	1/8 lb.
Beets	May 1 - July 15	5 - 10 ft.	1/2 pkt.
Broccoli	April 1 - July 15	8 - 12 ft.	5 - 10 plants
Brussels Sprouts	April 1 - July 15	8 - 12 ft.	5 - 10 plants
Cabbage	March 15	8 - 12 ft.	5 - 10 plants
Cantaloupe	May 5 - June 15	15 - 25 ft.	1/4 pkt.
Carrots	March 15 - July 15	5 - 10 ft.	1/2 pkt.
Cauliflower	March 15	5 - 10 ft.	3 - 5 plants
Celery	May 1	3 - 5 ft.	6 plants
Corn	May 1 - July 15	25 - 50 ft.	1 oz.
Cucumbers	May 5 - June 15	10 - 15 ft.	1/4 pkt.
Eggplant	May 5 - June 15	4 - 6 ft.	2 - 3 plants
Endive	April 1 - June 15	3 - 5 ft.	1/4 pkt.
Garlic - Cloves	March 15	Varies	
Horseradish	February 15 - April 15	Varies	
Kale	February 15 - April 15	5 - 10 ft.	1/4 pkt.
Kohlrabi	April 1 - May 15	3 - 5 ft.	1/4 pkt.
Leeks	March 15	10 - 15 ft.	1/4 pkt.
Lettuce - Leaf	3/1 - 4/15 & 8/1 - 9/15	5 - 10 ft.	1/2 pkt.
Lettuce - Head	March 15 - July 1	5 - 10 ft.	1/2 pkt.
Mustard	April 1 - July 1	3 - 5 ft.	1/4 pkt.
Okra	May 5 - June 15	4 - 5 ft.	1/4 pkt.
Onions - Bunching	April 1 - May 31	Varies	
Onions - Dry sets	March 15 - June 15	10 - 15 ft.	1 lb.
Parsley	April 1 - June 1	3 - 5 ft.	1/4 pkt.
Parsnip	April 1 - June 1	Varies	
Peas	February 15 - July 15	15 - 25 ft.	1/4 pkt.
Pepper Plants	May 5 - June 15	4 - 6 ft.	3 - 4 plants
Potatoes	April 1 - May 31	50 - 100 ft.	5 - 10 lbs.
Pumpkins	May 5 - June 15	12 - 18 ft.	1/4 pkt.
Radish	4/1 - 6/15 & 8/1 - 9/1	5 - 10 ft.	1/2 pkt.
Rhubarb - Roots	March 1 - May 15	5 - 10 ft.	3 - 4 roots
Rutabaga	April 1 - May 15	5 - 10 ft.	1/4 pkt.
Spinach	4/1 - 5/15 & 7/15 - 8/1	5 - 10 ft.	1/2 pkt.
Squash	May 5 - July 15	5 - 15 ft.	1/4 pkt.
Tomatoes	May 5 - June 15	10 - 15 ft.	3 - 5 plants
Turnips	April 1 - August 1	10 - 15 ft.	1/4 pkt.



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