

10 Tips To Get You Started Growing Fresh Food From Your Yard This Year



Follow these 10 tips for a successful home garden this season!

If you've always wanted a beautiful home garden but didn't know where to start, this guide is perfect for you.

Gardening doesn't have to be a very complicated project and you don't have to be an expert or have tons of experience to grow some fresh food in your yard if you start off with a good plan to follow.

1

SET CLEAR GOALS

Decide what you want your garden to accomplish. Are you hoping for a high yield garden and canning, maybe just looking to grow fresh culinary herbs or want to focus on a salad garden?

2

KNOW YOUR ZONE

Find out the USDA Hardiness Zone for the location of your garden. Note your Last and First Frost Dates which will let you know what crops can be grown in your climate.

3

PLAY THE LONG GAME

Gardeners are always learning, trying new ideas, growing techniques and different crops. You learn from your successes and your failures. The best thing about gardening, is that you get to try again every year!

4

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION!



Most vegetables require a minimum of 6 hours of

direct sunlight each day. Identify the area of your yard that gets the most direct sunlight, remember some areas that are sunny during Winter may be shady during the Summer months when leaves are back on the trees.



If possible, place the garden close to your home

and within sight to makes it easier to care for and visit frequently.



Choose an area that is easily accessible with

enough room to work with shovels, rakes and to bring wheel barrels in and out. Mark pathways to avoid stepping on the soil you're growing plants.

5

USE RAISED BEDS



Raised beds can be built any size and shape with an endless options of materials to fit all budgets and styles. They eliminate the need to till the existing soil, make it easy to organize your planting, improves soil drainage and allows you to start the

season earlier since the soil in beds warms up faster than the frozen ground in the Spring.

6

START WITH THE RIGHT SOIL MIX

Gardening in raised beds, allows you to make your own soil mix. Start with a mix of One third Compost, one third Peat Moss and One third Vermiculite. Use slow release fertilizers like Kelp Meal and amend with Worm Castings to keep nutrients in your soil that plants will use to grow healthy and strong. Make sure to top off beds with fresh compost every season!

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7

INSTALL AN IRRIGATION SYSTEM



You have different options for watering your garden, but your best bet is installing a drip irrigation system. The benefits of an irrigation system include saving water, controlling weeds, and emitters deliver water directly at the base of plants keeping foliage dry which helps control the spread of fungal diseases. A timer can be used to automate the entire process all season long!



8

KEEP RECORDS

Make a list of all the vegetables you want to grow, draw a map of your entire garden space and the layout of each bed. Always use labels in the garden to remember where you sowed seeds and the length of rows. Keep notes of planting dates, number of crops and your harvests. You can use online tools and apps to journal your garden all season.

9

VERTICAL GROWING

To make the best use of our space, include the use of trellises, arbors and support structures to guide vining plants upwards. Use the cleared space around the base of plants for interplanting and maximize the growing area of your raised beds!

10

PLAN A CONTINUOUS HARVEST

Get familiar with the life span and growth patterns of the plants you're growing. Sow seeds of the same crop in weekly intervals to space out their harvest times. Add or subtract weeks based on last and first frost dates.