

Vegetable Gardening



TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION



**VEGETABLE
SPECIALIST**

Gail Smith

Central Tx Guide



Vegetable Garden Planting Guide



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Plant seed unless otherwise noted

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Artichoke (crowns/transplants)	←-----crowns-----→								←--transplants--→			
Asian greens (seeds or transplants)												
Asparagus (crowns)												
Beans, snap and lima												
Beets												
Broccoli (transplants)												
Brussels sprouts (transplants)												
Cabbage (transplants)												
Cantaloupe (muskmelon)												
Carrots												
Cauliflower (transplants)												
Chard, Swiss (seeds or transplants)												
Collards (seeds or transplants)												
Corn												
Cucumber												
Eggplant (transplants)												
Fava beans												
Garlic												
Greens, cool season												
Greens, warm season												
Kale (seeds or transplants)												
Kohlrabi (seeds or transplants)												
Leeks (seeds/transplants)												
Lettuce (seeds or transplants)												
Mustard (seeds or transplants)												
Okra												
Onion, bulbing (transplants)												
Onion, bunching/multiplying												
Peas, English, snap and snow												
Peas, Southern												
Pepper (transplants)												
Potato, Irish												
Potato, sweet (slips)												
Pumpkin												
Radish												
Shallots												
Spinach (seeds or transplants)												
Squash, summer												
Squash, winter												
Tomatoes (transplants)												
Turnip												
Watermelon												

Average last freeze Mar 4

Average first freeze Nov 27

Plants grown in winter will benefit from protection during freezing weather
 Plants grown in late summer will benefit from shade cover during establishment

Compiled by Patty G Leander, Master Gardener Vegetable Specialist
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Know where to find information

Aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu

Academics Fruit & Nut Vegetable Earth-Kind®
 Master Gardener JMG® Small Acreage
 Ornamental Internal Resources

Aggie Horticulture

-  **Academics**
Faculty, Student & Staff Information
-  **Fruit and Nut Resources**
Fact Sheets, New Varieties & Resources
-  **Vegetable Resources**
Fact Sheets & Problem Solvers
-  **Earth-Kind® Landscaping**
Environmentally-Friendly Landscaping
-  **Viticulture & Enology**
Growing Grapes & Making Wine
-  **Junior Master Gardener®**
Official Site of the JMG® Program
-  **Texas Master Gardener™**
Official Site of the TXMG Program
-  **Small Acreage Horticultural Crops**
Grower Info, Webinars & Resources
-  **Ornamental Production**
Nursery, Floral & Greenhouse Info
-  **Texas Superstar®**
Recommended Plants for Texas

aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu

Aggie Horticulture Academics Fruit & Nut
 Vegetable Earth-Kind® Master Gardener JMG®
 Small Acreage

Vegetable Resources



Easy Gardening Fact Sheets - Homeowner



Vegetable Variety Recommendations



Commercial Production Guides

AA aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION



Easy Gardening

ATOES • TOMATOES • TOMATOES • TOMATOES •

Joseph Masabni, Assistant Professor and Extension Horticulturist, The Texas A&M University System

Tomatoes are the most popular garden vegetable crop in Texas. They are a good source of vitamin A and fair source of vitamin C. Fresh tomatoes are popular in salads, on sandwiches and sliced. They can be cooked and used in many ways.

Soil preparation
 Work the garden soil only when it is dry enough not to stick to the garden tools. Several weeks before planting, work the top 8 to 10 inches of soil. Remove all rocks and trash from the soil and rake it to break up large clods.
 Tomatoes grow best in soils that have lots of organic matter. If possible, spread 2 to 3 inches of organic material such as compost, leaves, or rotted hay over the planting area. Mix this organic material into the top 4 to 6 inches of soil.

Varieties
 Texas gardeners can grow a variety of small- and large-fruited tomatoes:
Small fruit
 • Baxter's Early Bush
 • Cherry Grande
 • Red Cherry
 • Juliet
 • Small Fry
Large fruit
 • Better Boy
 • Big Boy
 • Carnival
 • Homestead
 • Big Beef
 • Bush Beefsteak
 • Celebrity

Planting
 Most families need only a few plants, so it is best to buy plants and not grow them from seed. Buy healthy, green plants that are 6 to 8 inches tall.
 Do not set out tomato plants until all danger of frost has passed. Transplant fall tomatoes in the garden about 100 days before the first expected frost.
 If possible, set out tomatoes on raised beds.

Site selection
 Tomatoes grow well in most Texas areas if planted in soil that drains well. They need at least 6 hours of sunlight each day.

Fertilizing
 If you plan to grow single plants, dig a hole 2 feet wide and 10 inches deep. Refill the hole with half soil and half organic matter. For this type of planting, mix 2 level tablespoons of fertilizer into this planting area.
 Add 2 to 3 pounds of fertilizer such as



Figure 1. Plant tomatoes on beds raised to about 8 inches.

Resources available on Aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu

Aggie Horticulture Academics Fruit & Nut
Vegetable Earth-Kind® Master Gardener JMG®
Small Acreage

Vegetable Resources



Easy Gardening Fact Sheets – Homeowner



Vegetable Variety Recommendations




Commercial Production Guides



Vegetable Problem Solvers

aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu



TEXAS A&M
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EXTENSION

EHT-033
11-10

Easy Gardening

CUCUMBERS • CUCUMBERS • CUCUMBERS • CUCU

Joseph Masabni, Assistant Professor and Extension Horticulturist, The Texas A&M University System

Cucumbers are grown for eating fresh or preserving as pickles. They mature quickly and are best suited to larger gardens. However, they can be grown in small areas if the plants are caged or trellised.

Site selection

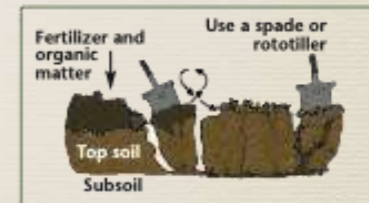
Although cucumbers do best in loose sandy loam soil, they can be grown in any well-drained soil.

Cucumbers must be grown in full sunlight. Because their roots reach 36 to 48 inches deep, do not plant them where tree roots will rob them of water and nutrients.

Soil preparation

Remove rocks, large sticks, and trash before preparing the soil. Leave fine pieces of plant material such as dead grass and small weeds because they will help enrich the soil when turned under.

Spade the soil to 8 to 12 inches deep (Fig. 1). This is about the depth reached by most shovels or spading forks. Turn each shovel of soil completely over to cover all plant materials with soil.



Work the soil into beds 4 to 6 inches high and at least 36 inches apart (Fig. 2). Ridges are especially important in heavy soils and poorly drained areas because cucumbers must have good drainage.

Figure 1. When preparing the soil, turn over the soil to a depth of 8 to 12 inches and add fertilizer and organic matter.

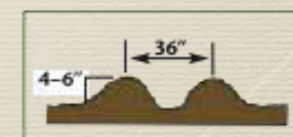


Figure 2. Work the soil into beds 4 to 6 inches high and at least 36 inches apart.

TOMATOES

Start seeds 10 weeks before planting date.
Large healthy transplants are the key
to a successful tomatoes.

1. Determinate
2. Semi-determinate
3. Indeterminate



For high yields plants must bloom before nighttime temperatures
Exceeds 75° and daytime temperature exceeds 92°.

Blooms will drop if night temperatures remain below 55° or over 75°.

Plant deeply to encourage stem root growth. Tomatoes will develop roots along the stem.

Avoid giving transplants excess nitrogen which causes rampant growth, rot and delayed ripening.
Apply high nitrogen fertilizer only after fruit set and every 7-14 days after.

Water seedlings with a high-phosphate fertilizer to boost early yields (sold as blossom or bloom booster) Bone meal is also a high phosphate source.

Epsom Salt (Magnesium Sulfate) improves flavor, flower production, enhances green color, and help plant grow bushier. Use 1 tsp per gallon of water for foliar spray.

Stake or Cage plants for disease resistance and improved production.

Determinate tomatoes plants should be staggered 4-6 weeks apart.

Potatoes



Produce in 90-120 days.

Best temperature 60°-75° days and 45°-55° nights.

Must produce crop before soil temperature reaches 85°.

Plant 4 weeks before last frost or 90 days before first frost.

Heavy feeders - fertilize soil prior to planting 1-2-1 ratio

Hill up when plants reach 5-6 inches

Keep soil slightly moist

Mulch 2 to 3 inches for moisture and cooling

Harvest potatoes when vines fall over or cut plants leaving potatoes in the ground 3-5 days to cure.

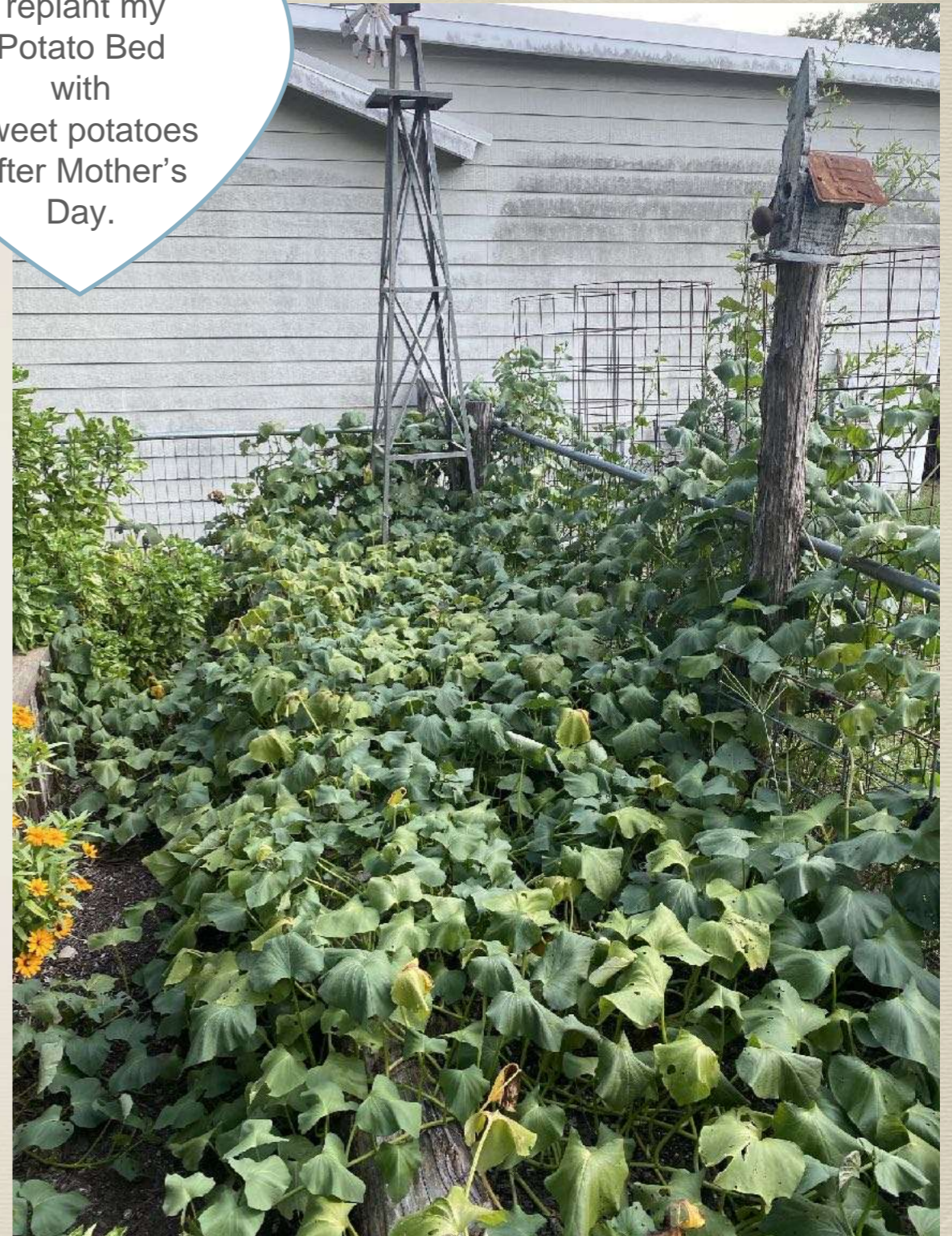
Sweet Potatoes

- Extreme heat tolerance
- 90-150 days to harvest
- Plant when soil temperature is over 65•
- Plant from slips (vine cutting)
- Fertilize & add compost before planting
- Needs 1 inch of water per week
- Stop watering 2 to 3 weeks before harvest
- Harvest before first frost
- Cure before storing

Plant after Mother's Day
for a Thanksgiving
Harvest



I replant my
Potato Bed
with
Sweet potatoes
After Mother's
Day.



Start growing slips in February

BEANS

Legumes

produce little nodules that fill with bacteria that takes Nitrogen out of the air and converts to Fertilizer

Plant after soils warm, seeds germinate at 70-90°F

Soak seeds to increase germination

Successive sowing every 2-3 weeks through midsummer

Bush beans produce around 40 days but only last for couple weeks

Pole beans produce around 60-70 days produce much longer

Bean Inoculant

Rhizobium bacteria colonize roots to fix free nitrogen from the air. It enables faster germination and stimulates plant hormones responsible for root formation and development resulting in healthy plant growth and higher yields

Reasons inoculant is required

Location where legumes haven't grown for 3-5 years.

Location never cultivated.

Location where legumes grew with low crop yields.



Know where to find information

aggiehorticulture.tamu.edu

vegetableipm.tamu.edu

plantanswers.com



QUESTIONS?

