Home Gardening: Day 2

Planting and Transplanting

Layering a Raised Bed



Successful Planting means Starting with the Right Plants



Choosing the Right Plants



- Questions to consider
 - Do the plants have a good color?
 - Do they look sturdy?
 - Do they have a good root system?

VEGETABLE GARDEN FERTILIZER

We all know that we're meant to use fertilizer but how many people know exactly what we should be using.

Fertilizer is commonly labelled by it's NPK value, displayed as 10-10-10, 6-3-6 or something similar. This is the measure of three specific nutrients within the fertilizer - so what do these mean for us vegetable gardeners



N = NITROGEN

Nitrogen encourages green and leafy growth so is especially important when growing plants such as lettuce, silverbeet or spinach Texas A&M AgriLife

Extension



P = **PHOSPHOROUS**

Phosphorous is primarily responsible for flower, fruit and root health so is especially important when growing plants such as tomatoes, eggplants and zucchinis.



K = POTASSIUM

Potassium is also sometimes referred to as Potash. Potassium plays an important role in ensuring the overall healthy functioning of plants.

So it really is that simple. The numbering system simply tells you how much Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Potassium is in your bottle of fertilizer. Equipped with this knowledge you can now ensure you get the right fertilizer for the job.

Article: www.grow-your-own-vegetablegarden.com/index.php/vegetable-garden-fert

Fertilizer: Before and During Growth



Before Planting...

Always use gloves when spreading fertilizer.

- Add fertilizer and cover with a layer of topsoil.
- Direct contact with the fertilizer can "burn" roots, so make sure there is a layer of soil in between fertilizer and plant or seed.

Seeds vs Plants

Seeds

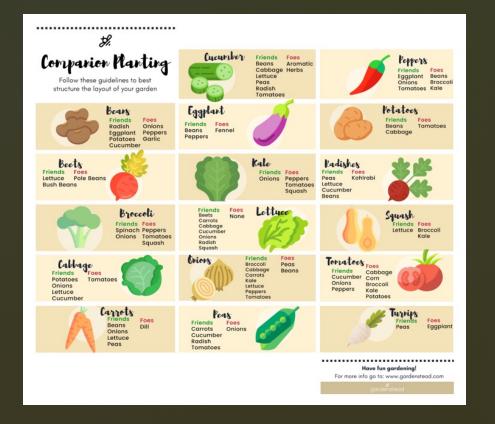
- Sow directly into fertilized area
- Ensure you map or mark the general area so you know what is growing

Plants

- If in plastic container
 - Remove store bought plants from container
 - Loosen the root system
- Plant on top of fertilized area
- If in grow pot
 - Plant directly into fertilized area

Companion Planting: Friend or Foe?

Some plants actually encourage their friends to grow and help ward off predators and bugs.





When all else fails, google it!

- <u>Gardening Channel</u>
- <u>Tractor Supply</u>

• Farmers Almanac

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