

EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE >> CHANGING LIVES

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*Everybody's Yard and Garden Guide Series*

# How to Grow a Vegetable Garden

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~ Don Kinzler, Horticulture Agent, Cass County



# Why grow your own vegetables?









# Let's get started

1. Decide what type of garden works for you
2. Choose location
3. Plan ahead – decide what to plant
4. Prepare site
5. Plant!





# *3 types of gardens*



Traditional garden



Raised Bed garden



Container garden



# Traditional Garden → Small Space Gardens

- Rural yard
- Large urban lot



- Balcony, patio, deck
- Small yard





# Location

- Check how much sunshine
  - ✓ 6 to 8 hours = full sun
  - ✓ 4 to 6 hours = part sun, part shade
  - ✓ Less than 4 = shade





## Location

- Full, all-day sun is best
- Locate near water source





## *... location continued*

- Vegetables produced from flowers – Full sunshine
  - ✓ Tomato, pepper, squash, cucumbers, melons,
- Edible root – Part sun
  - ✓ Carrot, radish, potato, onion
- Edible leaves – Tolerate shade
  - ✓ Lettuce, spinach, kale, cabbage, herbs





# Decide what to plant

- ✓ Make a plan
- ✓ Plant things you like





# Background information for all garden types...





*Some vegetables are planted from seeds,  
others from transplants*





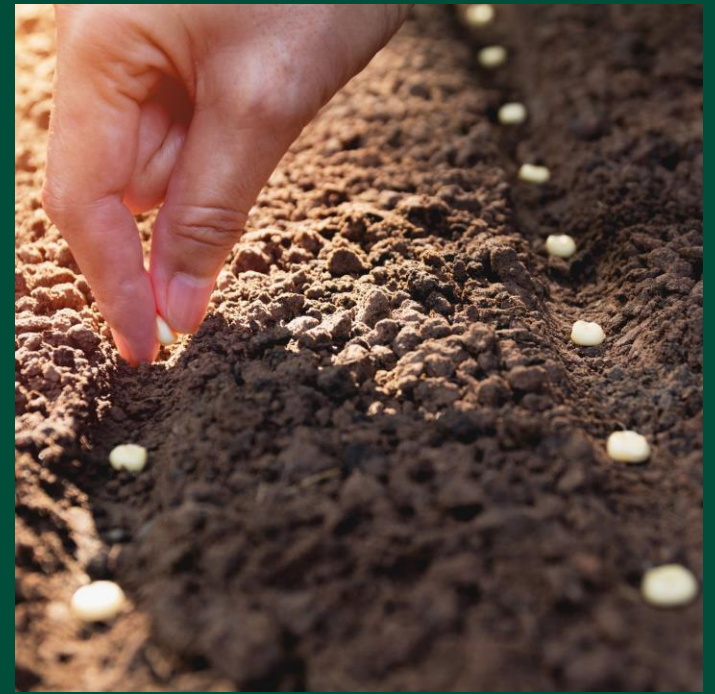
- From seed
  - ✓ Radish, carrot, peas, bean, lettuce, beets, sweet corn
- From transplants
  - ✓ Tomato, pepper, cabbage family
- From seed or transplants
  - ✓ Squash, Pumpkin, cukes, melons





- Planting seeds

- ✓ Broadcast or rows
- ✓ Cover to proper depth
- ✓ Firm gently



- Planting Transplants

- ✓ Slightly deeper than existing

- Water gently and thoroughly





## When to start

- Don't start too early
- Frost happens during first half of May
- Best 10-day window is May 15-25





# *Cool crops vs. warm crops*





# When can we start?

- Cool season crops = April
  - ✓ Radish, onion, lettuce, spinach, peas, potato, carrot, cabbage
- Warm season crops = May 15-25
  - ✓ Tomato, pepper, eggplant, cucumber, melons, squash



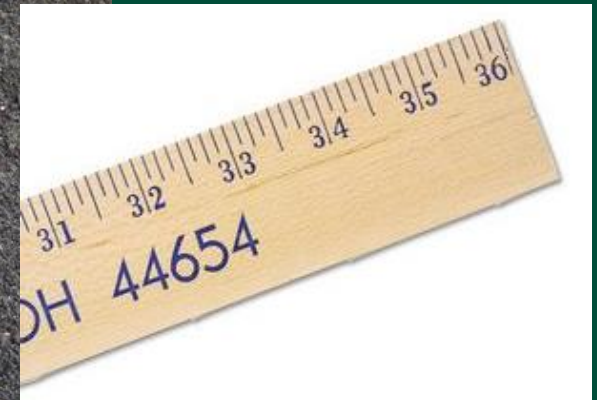


# How to plant a traditional garden....



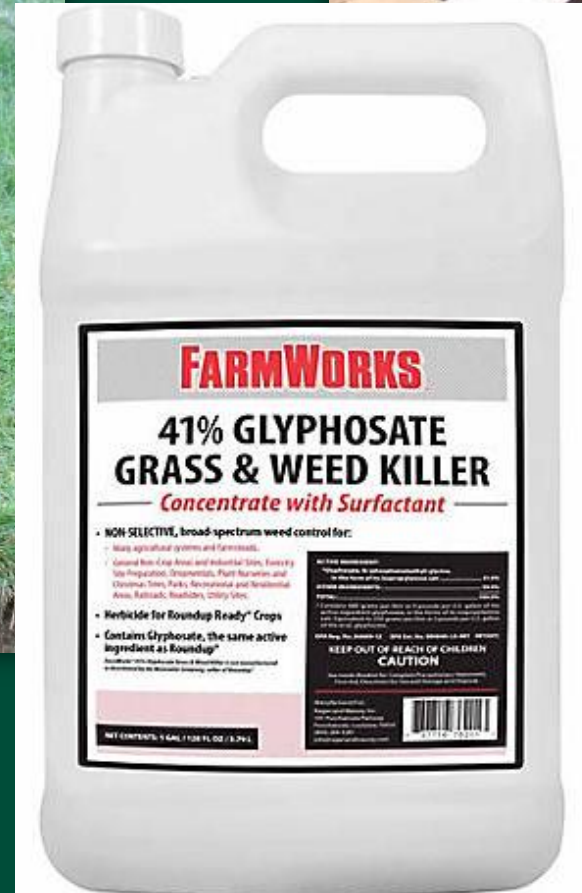


## *Tools needed*





# How to get rid of grass





# *Steps in Planting a traditional garden*

- Spade or rototill garden, smooth with rake





- Mark a row with string and stakes
- Using string as guide, pull hole along, making trench





- Check seed pack for planting depth
- Cover seed by pulling soil into trench with hoe or rake
- Move string and stake to next row; check pack for spacing





Label rows as you go, so you know where  
vegetables will emerge





# How can you control weeds?

- ✓ Hoe or pull when weeds are just barely visible.
- ✓ Mulch
- ✓ Never let weeds go to seed





# How to plant a raised bed, small-space garden





- Raised beds are just large containers
- Create in units 4 feet x 4 feet
- Square Foot Gardening method produces high yields in small space





# Special soil mix is needed for raised gardens

Regular garden soil is too “heavy” and compacts too greatly





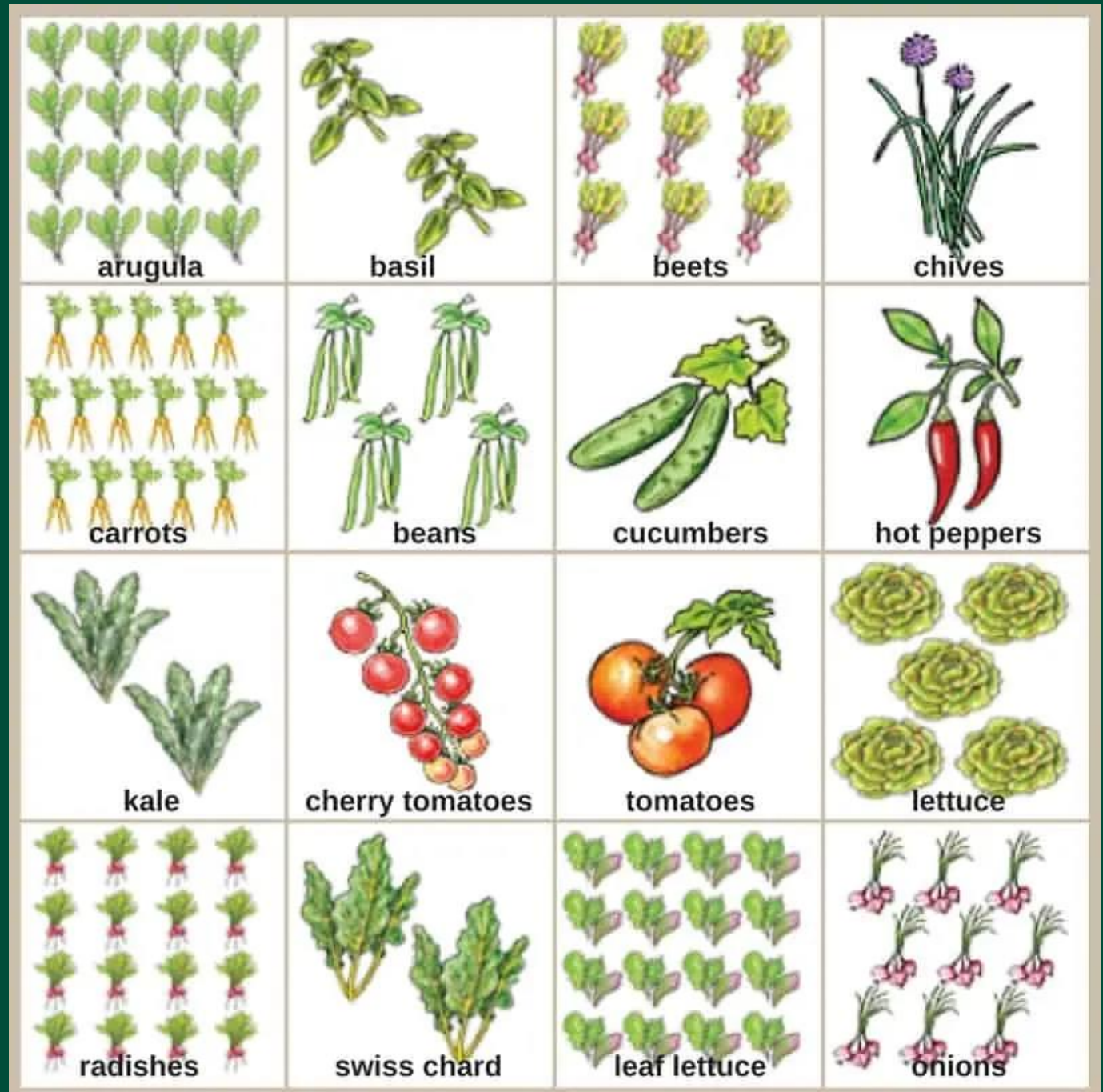
# Square foot method of raised bed gardening





*Each square is  
12 inches*

Search online for  
“Square Foot Gardening  
Method”





# High yield in small space





# How to plant a garden in containers





# *Gardening in containers*

- Look for types that say “Grows well in containers”
- Use potting mix, not regular soil





# Choose a container

- Must have drain holes
- 12 inches in diameter or more
- Tomatoes require the size of a 5-gallon bucket





# Potting mix...

- Must retain moisture
  - Must drain well
- ✓ Select high quality potting mix
  - ✓ Always moisten before using





# *Choose container vegetable varieties wisely*





















- Container friendly
- Tag or description usually says





# How many plants per container?

- The Square Foot Gardening method is a great resource
- A raised bed is a large container
- Plants per 12" square
- <https://squarefootgardening.org/method/>

 TOMATO X1	 CUCUMBER X1	 PEPPERS X1	 BEETS X16
 SQUASH X1	 CARROTS X16	 POTATOES X2	 BROCCOLI X1
 RADISH X32	 PARSLEY X2	 PUMPKIN X1	 EGGPLANT X1
 CABBAGE X1	 ROSEMARY X1	 MELON X1	 GREEN ONION X32
 ONION X16	 HOT PEPPER X1	 CILANTRO X1	 LETTUCE X4



# *Succession Planting*

- Radish, spinach, lettuce, carrots





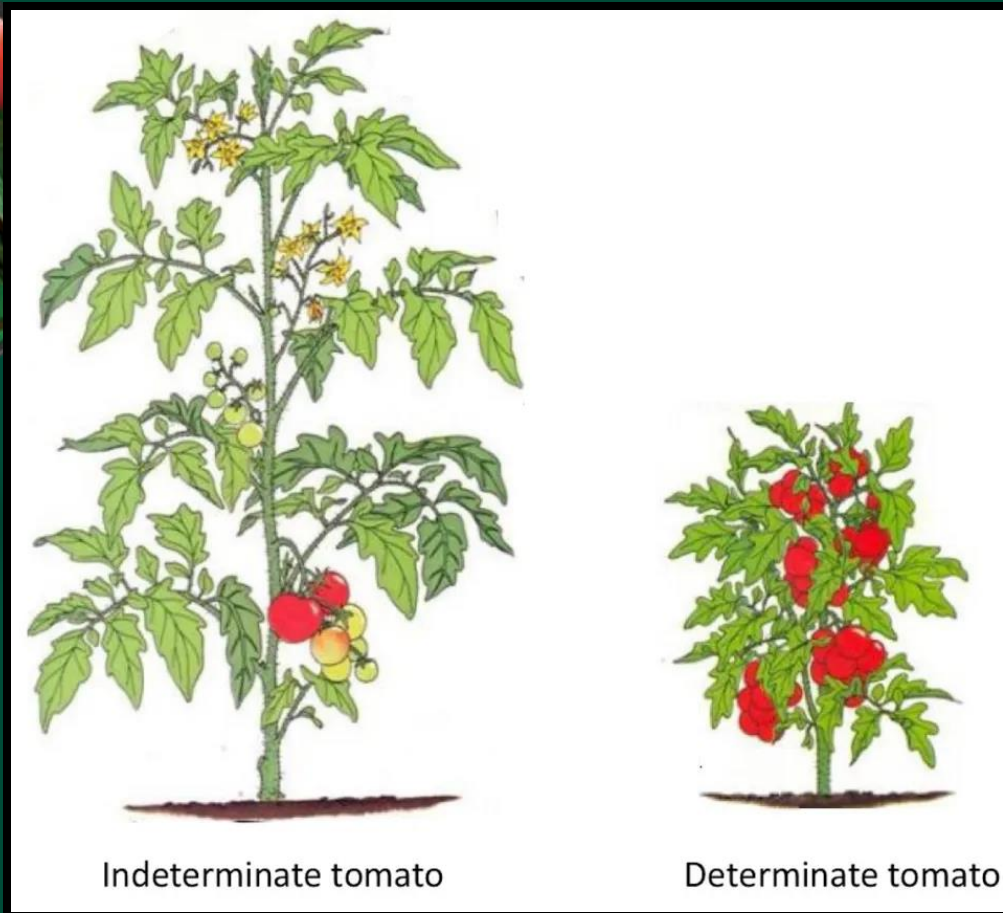
# America's #1 Homegrown Vegetable





# ...Tomatoes

- “Determinate” varieties more container-friendly
- “Indeterminate” varieties





# Selecting Varieties

- ✓ Early – 45 to 65 days
- ✓ Mid-season – 68 to 72 days
- ✓ Late – 75 to 100 days





# Plant Tag information



## BONNIE CENTENNIAL Hybrid Tomato

Determinate

Disease resistance: V, F, N, ASC, St, TSWV

- **LIGHT:** Full Sun, 6+ hrs  
**LUZ:** Sol Directo
- **SPACING:** 24-36" apart  
**ESPACIAMIENTO:** 60-90cm aparte
- **PLANTING DEPTH:** Bury 2/3 of plant  
**PROFUNDIDAD DE LA SIEMBRA:**  
Entierre 2/3 de la planta
- **MATURITY:** 80-90 days after planting  
**MADURACIÓN:** 80-90 días después  
de la siembra



**USE MIRACLE-GRO® SOIL and PLANT FOOD for  
your best harvest yet!** Feed regularly for best results.



# Plant deeply





# Blossom end rot





# Mulch

- ✓ Wait until warm
- ✓ Use untreated straw or grass clippings







*Ready...Set...Grow!*





# Thank you!

*For more information,  
contact:*

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