Starting Your Garden
Learn in this guide how to:

Choose a place to garden
- You need at least 6 hours of sun – without shade from trees or buildings. Make sure a water supply is close.
- Consider sharing garden space with neighbors, or join a P-Patch or other community garden.

Prepare your soil for planting
- Dig compost into the soil, or bury plant and food scraps.
- Mound up soil into raised beds.

Choose the right seeds to plant
- Grow what your family likes to eat, but choose vegetables that will grow well in our cool weather.
- Plant when the soil is warm enough. Select seeds that say “80 days” or less to harvest on the seed packet.
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Wait until May 15 to seed or transplant heat-loving plants.

Water and weed your garden
- Seedlings need water daily. Water mature plants 2-3 times a week if it hasn’t rained.

Harvest, and prepare garden for winter
- Ask other gardeners when to harvest, or read seed packet.
- Cover beds before winter with mulch, or plant winter cover crops.

Seattle’s climate is cool and wet, with cool dry summers. So heat-loving crops from hotter climates, like tomatoes, corn and peppers, are harder to grow here. But our mild spring, fall, and winter weather allows us to grow cool-loving Asian greens, kale, collards, spinach, and onions year ‘round.

Gardening in Western Washington

Questions? Garden Hotline (206) 633-0224

City of Seattle
Available in alternate formats on request: (206) 633-0224 TTY: (206) 233-7241

Choose a Place to Garden

Where is there sun?
Most vegetables need at least six hours of direct sunlight a day to grow well. Watch where the sun shines on your yard, and pick the sunniest spots to garden. Trees or buildings can block the sun, especially in spring or fall. A south-facing wall will warm quickly in the spring, and be good for heat-loving plants like tomatoes and peppers in summer.

Where can you grow?
Turn sunny lawn areas into garden by removing and composting the sod. Or to kill the lawn by covering it with 12 inches (30 cm) of wet fall leaves in November. Cover the leaves with cardboard or black plastic. Wait until May to dig up the area and start planting.

Build raised beds. Mix soil with compost. Mound the soil up into a raised bed to help the soil warm in spring. Plan paths between beds so you never walk on your loose, compost-amended soil. You can add sides to your raised beds made from concrete blocks, broken concrete, wood or plastic lumber. Don't use chemically treated wood.

Try gardening in containers. You can use large pots or half-barrels to grow tomatoes, peppers, greens, even berries. Grow vertically on a sunny wall or in a window. Climbing plants like beans, tomatoes and cucumbers will grow if you provide good light and soil for support.

Share with a neighbor, or join a community garden! Seattle's P-Patch program can help you find a community garden near where you live. They are great places to grow food, learn, and meet other gardeners.

Testing your soil for lead or other contamination
Soil near old houses with peeling paint, or next to streets or in industrial areas may have lead, arsenic, or other contamination.

Call the Garden Hotline to find out where to get your soil tested, or to get a copy of WSU's Gardening on Contaminated Soils. If you suspect that your soil is contaminated, build a raised bed and add 8 inches (20 cm) of fresh soil with compost.
Prepare Soil for Planting

Compost is decomposed plants (leaves, grass, dead plants) and food waste. Compost helps soil holds nutrients and water to grow healthy plants. You can make your own compost from grass clippings, leaves, sod, weeds, plants and food wastes, or you can buy compost. You can also bury food waste in the garden, or chop and drop plants.

Mulch is any material you spread on top of the soil, to conserve water, control weeds, and slowly feed the soil as it decomposes. Good mulches for gardens include fall leaves, plant and grass clippings, straw, coffee hulls, or compost.

Mix compost into your garden soil.

Dig to loosen the soil 8 to 12 inches deep (20-30 cm) with a shovel or garden fork. Spread compost 2 or 3 inches deep (5-8cm). Then mix the compost into the soil.

Or bury food and plant waste at least 6 inches (15 cm) deep to compost.

Soil for container growing

Mix one part compost with two parts sandy soil. Drainage in containers can be improved by adding a larger material like pea gravel or medium bark. You can also buy pre-mixed “potting soil.” If you have old potting soil in containers, you can add about 1/4 compost to freshen it for a new growing season.

Buying fertilizer?

Look for “organic.”

While vegetables get most of the nutrients they need from compost, a complete “organic” (from natural sources) fertilizer can speed their growth. Look for “organic vegetable fertilizer” or fish fertilizer at your garden store.

Get a soil test to discover other nutrient needs. Washington soils may need lime every few years, which adds calcium and reduces acidity. Mix about 4 pounds (1.5 kg) of lime into soil per 100 square feet (9.3 square meters). Ask the Garden Hotline where you can send your soil sample for a test that will tell you about lime and other nutrient needs.

Compost 

كمبودت گیاهان پوسته (برگ، علف، گیاهان مرده) و بازماده های غاته‌ستانی. کمبودت به گیاهان که ممکن است در حفظ مواد معذی و اب به بردن گیاهان سالم، شما می‌توانند کمبودت خود را از خردن های علف، برگ، جم، علف های هرز، گیاهان و پس ماده این ذخایر به کم کنید، یا اینکه آن را به صورت آباده بخرد. کمکی هم ممکن است توانایی پسمانده‌های خرد را همراه با گیاهان خرد مقدون کنید.

مالح سرانه آباده باشد که برای حفظ اقل و کنترل تبخیر های خرید، و تغذیه مالح در حال کار در حال نهایی‌شدن بر روی گیاه پاییده می‌شود. مالح های خوب برای تغذیه دارای برگ‌های پانزده، خرد، گیاهان علف، و علف، که پوست تهیه‌های کمبودت هستند.

کمبودت را با خاک باگچه مخلوط کنید.

با یک یا یک و پنج‌پایه باگچه به عمق ۲۱/۸ اینچ (۵۰-۷۰ سانتی‌متر) گیاه‌ها را ضخامت ۲ یا ۳ اینچ (۵-۸ سانتی‌متر) روی یک گنبد کنید. سیستم کمبودت را با خاک مخلوط کنید.

خاک را گسترش دهید

یک بکری جزوی کمبودت را با توجه به میزان خاک که مقادیر گیاهان در حداکل‌های عمق ۲۱/۸ اینچ (۵۰-۷۰ سانتی‌متر) گیاه‌ها را ضخامت ۲ یا ۳ اینچ (۵-۸ سانتی‌متر) روی یک گنبد کنید. سیستم کمبودت را با خاک مخلوط کنید.

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آیا باید کود بخرید؟

کود "آیلی" انتخاب کنید.

وقتی سیزه‌ها بستری می‌دهد باید مورد نیاز خود را از کمبودت می‌گیرید، یا کود کمک کننده "آیلی" (از منابع طبیعی) می‌تواند رشد آن را ارزنده گردد. قریب ۱/۵ یا ۱/۴ کود "آیلی" را به هر ۵۰۰ فوت مربع (۳ متر مربع) کمبودت اضافه کنید. برای اطلاع از محل انجام ارزیابی خاک خود، که کمبودهای خاک، به Garden Hotline می‌توانید باشند. آهک و سایر مواد نقش را نشان می‌دهند فلتی با شماره تماس گزار.
Plant the Right Seeds, at the Right Time

Choose plants that grow well in our cool climate.
Grow what your family likes to eat, but choose varieties of vegetables that will grow well in our cool, wet spring weather and cool, dry summers.

When to plant

Seeds need soil warm enough to sprout – typically at least 50-60°F (10-16°C). You can wait until the soil warms in May, or use a plastic cover to warm it more quickly.

Read seed packets for planting dates, and choose ones that say “80 days” or less to harvest. Peas and potatoes can be planted in March, but leafy greens should wait until April, and heat-loving crops like corn until late May.

Or buy seedling plants of heat-loving, long-season tomatoes, peppers, and eggplant, to transplant into the garden in late May. You can also grow them yourself from seeds planted indoors in March, in containers in a sunny window.

→ See the Calendar on back page.

Transplant heat-loving plants from greenhouse to garden in late May.

Make a hole as wide the seedling's roots. Add compost or a sprinkle of fertilizer. Spread roots out, and gently push soil in around the roots. Water well. Plant at the same depth as the plant was in the pot at the greenhouse.

Water young seedlings regularly. Cover and protect seedling plants from extreme heat or cold until they are strong.

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Thin and space plants – give them room to grow.

Follow the spacing directions on the seed packet. After seeds sprout and have a few leaves, thin (remove) seedlings to that spacing. You can also transplant seedlings from crowded areas to areas that aren’t full. This will ensure that plants have enough room to grow, and give you a bigger harvest. You can eat the little plants you pull as salad.

Succession planting

Plant more seeds every few weeks as long as the weather is warm, so that your harvest will continue into the fall. But don’t plant cool-loving crops like peas and spinach in hot July weather. Plant fall cool crops in August to early September.

Rotate crops

Some crops get diseases that stay in the soil for a year or more. And some crops use up soil nutrients quickly. To avoid problems, rotate (move) crop families to a different bed each year.

Example

1st Year:
Bed A Tomato
Bed B Onion
Bed C Cabbage

2nd Year:
Bed A Cabbage
Bed B Tomato
Bed C Onion

3rd Year:
Bed A Onion
Bed B Cabbage
Bed C Tomato

Other vegetable families that benefit from changing locations each year:

- cilantro, carrot, parsley
- beet, chard, spinach
- corn, wheat, teff
- cucumber, melon, squash
- lettuce, radicchio, endive
- pea, bean, clover

These families can all be planted together with the tomato, cabbage, and onion families.

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گیاهان را از هم فاصله دهید – برای آنها فضای کافی برای رشد ایجاد کنید.

به اطلاعات مربوط به فاصله بین بذرهای زنده و بهترین فرو رشد نهایی بهترین نتایج اضافه را برداری کنید. بهترین می‌توانید جوانه‌های که به نزدیکی نسبت دارند را به قسمت خلوت با داشته باشید. این کار که با ادآری که کافی از بذرهایی را در اواخر یا اوایل سپتامبر بنا کنید، می‌توانید این ایجاد، محسوس بزرگ‌تر و بزرگ‌تر می‌گردد.

کاشتن منتوالی

تا وقتی با هر چند هفته یک بار بذرهای بیشتری بکارمیده‌اید، تا محسوس کنید شما با پایین‌ام که به‌دست آمده‌اید این که گیاهان سرما دوست مانند نخود و اسفنج‌ها در ماه‌های ژوئنی نگه‌دارید. گیاهانی که در هنگ بانی زی و در اوایل با اول سپتامبر بکارمیده‌اید، می‌توانید گیاهانی را در هر ماه از ایجاد این مشکل، محسوسه را خاویدی کنید.

گردش محسوسات

بعضی از محسوسات مبتنی به بیماری هایی می‌شوند که در خاک برای یک سال بلایی می‌مانند و پس از این محسوسات به سرعت مواد غذایی خارک و اضافه می‌گردد. برای جلوگیری از ایجاد این مشکل، محسوسه را خاویدی کنید. بجای گذیری (جایگزینی کنید).

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سایر خاوی‌های سیزیجات که تغییر محل

هرسال برای آنها مفید است

- گشنیز، هریج جعفری
- جعفری سیب زمینی، اسفنج‌ها
- دوزت متعاقب تف
- خیار هدیه‌ها کدو
- کاهو کامی زیتون، لیمو شیرین
- نخود لوب‌یا شیرین

تمام این خاوی‌های هرا را می‌توان با همدیگر با خاوی‌های گوجه فرنگی، کلم، و پیاز کاشت.
Water your garden

Check your garden daily in hot summer weather. Water before vegetables droop, or when the soil feels dry 2 inches (5 cm) down. In cooler, rainy spring and fall you'll only need to water young seedlings. Direct water to the plant roots. Use a watering wand, or in flat areas lay out a soaker hose between rows and cover it with mulch. To avoid evaporation waste and prevent wet plant damage from the mid-day sun.

Control weeds and pests

Spread mulch (leaves, grass clippings) and pull weeds before they go to seed.

Most bugs are good bugs that help control pests. Learn which bugs are problems, and how to control them.

Don't use chemical pesticides.

They can poison your family and birds, pets, and fish. Call the Garden Hotline to identify pest or weed problems, and learn about non-toxic solutions.

Garden All Year

Our climate is cool and wet in spring and fall, and usually above freezing in winter. So heat-loving plants like corn are hard to grow, but cool-loving plants are easy.

Extend your season with cold-hardy crops. Bok choi, kale, collards, broccoli, carrots, leeks, and garlic can be planted in late summer or early fall to grow for harvest all winter or in spring.

Grow under cover. Start spring plants in a greenhouse or "cold frame," or extend fall growth with a plastic cover.

Plant berries and other plants that grow for many years. Add these plants to your landscape wherever there's sun: blueberries and strawberries, artichokes, asparagus, even dwarf fruit trees or grapes. Ask the Garden Hotline about best varieties for our climate.

Be careful with chemical pesticides.

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Garden All Year
Harvest and Share!

Harvest vegetables before they go to seed. See seed packets for "days to maturity" and photos of ready-to-harvest plants, or ask gardeners at your local community garden about when to harvest.

Share your harvest. If you have more than you can eat, share with neighbors or call the Garden Hotline or see the P-Patch and Lettuce Link websites on back to learn where to donate food.

Saving seeds is easy with most green leafy plants. Just hang the mature seed stalk to dry. Fruiting plants like tomatoes and squash often cross-breed, so saved seed may not produce good fruit. Call the Garden Hotline to learn more about saving seed, or any garden question.

Prepare Gardens for Winter

Fall is time to clean up the garden, compost dead plants, and protect your garden from winter winds and from rainfall washing soil away.

Cover crops are usually legumes like clover, planted in October to grow through the winter. They protect the soil, and provide nutrients when you dig them into the soil before planting in spring.

Winter mulches should cover any soil areas not planted with overwintering crops or cover crops. Collect fall leaves and spread them 2-3 inches deep to cover exposed soil. You can also chop dead plants and spread them on the soil.

Composting returns nutrients back to the soil. Chop up old garden plants, along with grass clippings and fall leaves, to build your compost pile. Choose a shady spot, and moisten materials as you build your pile.

Or bury food scraps (to keep animals away) under garden beds all winter to improve the soil.

You can also learn how to compost kitchen scraps in a rodent-resistant worm bin. Weeds and diseased plants, along with dairy or meat scraps from the kitchen, should go into the City’s yard- and-food-waste collection for hot composting.

In spring, you can use your compost or buy compost to enrich your soil for another year of growing.

محصول خود را برداری کنید و با دیگران قسمت کنید!

سبزیجات را قبل از انگیزه حفر کنید. برای اطلاع از "زمان رسیدن گیاه" و مشاهده عکس گیاهان که آماده پرداخت هستند، به پشت پاکت برگ توجه کنید و یا از باخوان های دیگر در باخوان جمع می‌شود و وقت برداری ستوال کنید. محصول خود را با دیگران قسمت کنید. اگر محصول مشتری از محصولات باغ کرده است، آن را با مصالح خود قسمت کنید و یا تلفنی تماس بگیرید. برای اطلاع درآمده غذا به Hotline و P-Patch نگهداری برگ‌سپاری از گیاهان سبز برگ اسان است. فقط سالمه، دانه رسیده و اپتیت خشک کردن آویزان کنید. گیاهان بارده مثل گوجه فرنگی و کدو را معمولاً به هم‌یوندی می‌پوشاند و بدين ترتیب برگ دختر شده می‌کنند اما ممکن است خوب ندهد. برای اطلاع از نگهداری برگ و هرگونه سیالی، تلفنی با تماس دریچه Hotline.

باغچه‌ها برای زمستان آماده کنید

فصل پاییز زمان نظافت باغی، کمیسیون گیاهان خشک شده و محافظت باغچه خود از سختی‌های زمستانی و شسته شدن خاک توسط بار است.

محصولات نمونه کنید و حفظ کنید خاک معمولاً حیوانات مثل سبزی‌های اغلب کشتی که در هر ماه‌ها کاشتش شده برای اشتراک در زمستان است. وقتی آنها را برای سبزی‌ها در زمستان پیشنهاد می‌دهیم که خاک مرطوب و سرد، که آماده شده و مفید می‌باشد. برای دریافت اطلاعات "زمان رشد"، تماس بگیرید.

کمیسیون کردن مواد مغذی را به خاک بریم گردان. گیاهان قبیل بازی گری را خرد کنید و همراه با چنین خرده و برگ‌های نشسته‌ای را خرد کرده و کمیسیون بک بگردد. تحقیق کنید و مخالفت‌های را برطنوب کنید.

یا در طول زمستان اضافه های مواد غذایی را (برای دور نگهداری) خاک می‌کنید و به خاک رس آورید. همچنین می‌توانید که خاک را در روزهای باریک کنید.

در بهره می‌پذیرید، از کمیسیون خود استفاده کنید و با برای غنی کردن خاک کمک کنید که با دیگر کمیسیون بگردد.
## Easy Crops for Beginner Gardeners

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Bok Choi H → P</td>
<td>Corn P → H</td>
<td>Cabbage H → P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Beets P → H</td>
<td>Squash, Cucumber P → H</td>
<td>Kale, Collards, Chard H → P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>Peas P → H</td>
<td>Cilantro P → H</td>
<td>Beets P → H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug</td>
<td>Lettuce, Spinach H → P</td>
<td>Tomatoes T → H</td>
<td>Cabbage P → H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep</td>
<td>Potatoes P → H</td>
<td>Squash, Cucumber P → H</td>
<td>Beets P → H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>Onions P → H</td>
<td>Cilantro P → H</td>
<td>Kale, Collards, Chard H → P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>Bok Choi H → P</td>
<td>Corn P → H</td>
<td>Cabbage H → P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>Beets P → H</td>
<td>Squash, Cucumber P → H</td>
<td>Kale, Collards, Chard H → P</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Learn More about Gardening

- **Questions? Call The Garden Hotline** (Seattle Public Utilities) free brochures on soil, composting, watering, pest control, and more. Language interpretation available.
- **P-Patch Program** of Seattle’s Department of Neighborhoods provides community garden spaces in many neighborhoods, at low or no cost. Translated classes. Everyone is welcome.
- **Seattle Parks** classes, community gardens
- **City of Seattle’s Food** website
- **Urban farming news and resources**
- **WSU Extension Master Gardeners**
- **Lettuce Link** information on gardening, sharing harvests, and **Gardening for Good Nutrition**
- **Tilth Alliance** provides classes, demonstration gardens, volunteer opportunities, and **The Maritime Northwest Garden Guide**

### Contact Information

- **206-633-0224**
  - email help@gardenhotline.org
  - [www.gardenhotline.org](http://www.gardenhotline.org)
- **206-684-0264**
  - email p-patch.don@seattle.gov
  - [www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/ppatch](http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/ppatch)
  - [www.seattle.gov/parks/pufs](http://www.seattle.gov/parks/pufs)
  - [www.urbanfarmhub.org](http://www.urbanfarmhub.org)
  - [www.solid-ground.org/get-help/food-resources](http://www.solid-ground.org/get-help/food-resources)
  - [www.TilthAlliance.org](http://www.TilthAlliance.org)