

## HOW TO GROW THE BEST VEGETABLES

In addition to choosing the right location, here are a few tips that will help you grow your best veggies yet:

1. **Space your crops properly.** For example, corn needs a lot of space and can overshadow shorter vegetables. Plants set too close together compete for sunlight, water, and nutrition; are more susceptible to disease and pests; and fail to mature. Pay attention to the spacing guidance on seed packets and plant tabs.
2. **Use high-quality seeds.** Seed packets are less expensive than individual plants, but if seeds don't germinate, your money—and time—are wasted. A few extra cents spent in spring for that year's seeds will pay off in higher yields at harvesttime. [See a list of of mail-order seed catalogs here.](#)
3. **Water properly.** Watering your plants the correct amount—neither too much nor too little—will give them the best chance at producing well-formed, mature vegetables. [Learn more about watering vegetables.](#)
4. **Plant and harvest at the right time,** not too early or too late. Every vegetable has its own planting dates so be sure to check the seed packet. [See the Almanac's Best Planting Dates](#)—a gardening calendar customized to your local frost dates.

### SUGGESTED PLANTS FOR A BEGINNER'S VEGETABLE GARDEN

The vegetables suggested below are common, productive plants that are relatively easy to grow. It would be wise to contact your state's [Cooperative Extension Service](#) to find out what plants grow best in your area, and when the best time for planting them is. Think about what you like to eat as well as what's difficult to find in a grocery store or farmers' market.

### Top Ten Vegetables

(Tip: Click on a veggie's name to see its detailed Growing Guide.)

1. [Tomatoes](#)
2. [Zucchini squash](#)
3. [Peppers](#)
4. [Cabbage](#)
5. [Bush beans](#)
6. [Lettuce](#)
7. [Beets](#)
8. [Carrots](#)
9. [Chard](#)
10. [Radishes](#)
11. (Bonus) [Marigolds](#) to discourage pests and add some color!

