



Vegetable Gardening 101

1. Location, location, location!
 - 6-8 hours of direct sun is best
 - morning sun vs. afternoon sun
 - containers can be moved into sunny spots
2. Soil is the key to success
 - do you have clay, sand? Either one needs Compost
 - best compost is homemade (leaves, grass, food scraps, coffee)
 - continuous process to improve the soil – results get better
 - be sure to protect soil from sun, wind, rain
 - treat soil gently (fork)
3. What will grow now? What do you want to eat?
 - look at garden schedule; what is the weather like?
 - cool season vs warm season plants
 - get them well established before the weather gets really hot or cold
 - tomatoes (Homestead, Celebrity, Golden Mama) water the birds!
4. Seeds vs Transplants
 - SEEDS: squash, zucchini, cucumbers, melons
 - PLANTS: tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, broccoli, cauliflower
 - starting your own plants from seed
 - how to plant
5. Watering and maintenance
 - keep moist until plant is well established
 - keep mulched with compost to help roots & protect soil
 - drip hoses, soaker hoses
 - look at your plants frequently – catch problems early
 - use a seaweed/fish solution for quicker boost
6. Got bugs? Keep it simple, keep it safe
 - identify the problem
 - exclude/remove pests (row cover, netting, rabbit fence)
 - caterpillars vs hard-bodied insects
 - slugs, snails, roly polys (Sluggo, garlic granules, red pepper flakes)
7. When to harvest for best flavor
<http://www.reneesgarden.com/articles/harvest.html>
8. July – start getting ready for fall! February – get ready for spring!