

BEGINNING GARDENING TIPS



LOCATION, LOCATION

Look for an area that gets at least 6 or more hours of full sun per day.

BE PREPARED

Prepare the soil by digging or rototilling and add 50 pounds of lime per 1000 sq ft and 10 pounds of 0-46-0 per 1000 sq ft and 6 pounds of 17-17-17 per 1000 sq ft. If you wish to do it organically add the lime mentioned above and then add as much compost as you can and till it in. You can also build a raised bed but you'd need to get some sandy topsoil to fill it with (do not use potting soil). You would then want to use the same recommendations as above.



TIMING IS EVERYTHING

Plant your summer garden around the last week of April. Tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, squash, corn, and melons are all garden staples that grow well in our area. Seed is the preferred method of planting for all but tomatoes and peppers which work best with transplants. Tomatoes and peppers will also need some support in the form of cages or stakes.



H2O FOR THE WIN

Make sure to water and weed your garden weekly to ensure maximum harvest. You can also use mulch in the garden to prevent weeds and retain moisture. The time and attention you give this step can make all the difference in the success of your garden.

DISEASE DETERRENTS

Fungus can be a problem in vegetable gardens so it is advisable to utilize Daconil (conventional) or copper fungicide (organic) to prevent problems. These really need to be applied prior to disease establishment to be effective. Both products can be easily ordered from online retailers. Insect issues can generally be handled with by hand picking or by sprays of soapy water for bugs such as aphids.



WE'VE GOT THIS!

We are in this vegetable gardening thing together! Have specific gardening questions along the way? Call Polk County Extension Director Scott Welborn at 828-817-6277 or email him at scott_welborn@ncsu.edu