

# **GROW YOUR BEST VEGETABLE GARDEN - USEFUL LINKS**

(links from NC State Extension unless otherwise noted)

Central NC Planting Calendar for Annual Vegetables, Fruits and Herbs (AG-756) http://content.ces.ncsu.edu/central-north-carolina-planting-calendar-for-annual-vegetables-fruits-and-herbs.pdf

NC Extension Gardener Handbook – chapter 16, Vegetable Gardening https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/extension-gardener-handbook/16-vegetable-gardening

**Vegetable Gardening: a Beginner's Guide (AG-12)** https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/home-vegetable-gardening-a-quick-reference-guide

**First and Last Frost Dates in NC – interactive map and chart** https://gardening.ces.ncsu.edu/2020/09/first-and-last-frost-dates/?src=rss

Soil Testing - Resources and Links (from NCDA&CS and NC State Extension) https://guilford.ces.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Soil-Testing-Links-2021.pdf?fwd=no

Municipal Compost Information - Guilford county locations https://guilford.ces.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Municipal-Compost.pdf?fwd=no

NC Bulk Compost Map (NC Composting Council) - shows sites throughout North Carolina https://carolinacompost.com/bulkcompostmap/

Watering the Vegetable Garden (Clemson): includes info on soaker hoses and drip irrigation https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/watering-the-vegetable-garden

How to Install Home Garden Drip Irrigation (video, University of Kentucky) https://uknowledge.uky.edu/bae\_present/1/

**Fertilizer and Side Dressing Basics (NC State EMG program, Guilford county)** https://docs.google.com/document/d/186cIuHqhIIkl89KKuvBPMVCn6kZiEPEDhIGiCcu8miU/edit

Harvesting Vegetables (Clemson) https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/harvesting-vegetables/

Handouts from previous "Grow with Us" programs - including Tomatoes, Herbs, Container Edibles https://guilford.ces.ncsu.edu/free-gardening-class-materials/

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## **Best Vegetable Garden - problem solving and resources**

#### **Tomato Diseases and Disorders (Clemson)**

http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/pests/pdf/hgic2217.pdf

**Tomato Insect Pests (Clemson):** excellent photos and a table suggesting control options http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/pests/pdf/hgic2218.pdf

Early Blight of Tomato - Vegetable Pathology Factsheets (NCSU)

https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/early-blight-of-tomato

Cucumber, Squash, Melon & Other Cucurbit Diseases (Clemson) https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/cucumber-squash-melon-other-cucurbit-diseases

#### Cucumber, Squash, Melon & Other Cucurbit Insect Pests (Clemson)

https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/cucumber-squash-melon-other-cucurbit-insect-pests/

Homeowner's Guide to Managing Diseases Using Fungicides, Bactericides, and Alternative Products https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/homeowners-guide-to-managing-diseases-using-fungicides-bactericides-and-alternative-products

#### Less Toxic Insecticides (Clemson)

http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/pests/pesticide/hgic2770.html

#### Excluding and Repelling Problem Wildlife from the Garden (Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst)

https://ag.umass.edu/home-lawn-garden/fact-sheets/wildlife-excluding-repelling-problem-wildlife-from-garden

#### Fencing to Exclude Deer - North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission https://www.ncwildlife.org/Learning/Species/Mammals/Whitetail-Deer/Fencing-to-Exclude-Deer#42041178-

electric-deer-barrier-principles

### Low Cost Deer Fence Alternative (video, University of Maryland)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TmIGg786gOk



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## **Integrated Pest Management and Best Practices**

#### NC Extension Gardener Handbook (IPM Chapter)

https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/extension-gardener-handbook/8-integrated-pest-management-ipm

National Pesticide Information Center - Integrated Pest Management (Oregon State University, US EPA) http://npic.orst.edu/pest/ipm.html

Plant Disease and Insect Clinic (NCSU, Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology) https://pdic.ces.ncsu.edu

# **Top Ten Tips to Prevent Problems - Grow Strong Healthy Plants**

- 1- Select a sunny spot for the vegetable garden (at least 8 hours) with access to water
- 2- Do a soil test and adjust your pH according to the lab's recommendations
- 3- Incorporate organic matter such as compost into the root zone (top 6-12" of soil)
- 4- Grow or purchase quality transplants, and wait for the right soil and air temps before planting
- 5- Give plants enough growing space based on their mature size, and good support to keep foliage clean
- 6- Mulch to reduce fungal disease and weed pressure, and also to regulate soil moisture and temperature
- 7- Supply regular watering if rainfall is lacking, based on the plant's size and stage of growth
- 8- Fertilize carefully: vegetable plants often need supplemental nitrogen, but beware of over applying
- 9- Rotate plants to reduce fungal disease issues, and practice good garden sanitation

10- Follow IPM principles - monitor your plants to keep ahead of potential problems, and get a proper diagnosis of any issues before taking action: if action is required, look for the least impactful solutions first



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# THE IPM "PYRAMID"

\*a guide to mindful decision-making for home gardeners\*

TOP

ACTIONS Least impactful/most effective Goal is management, not eradication Can be mechanical, biological, chemical

#### **ACTION THRESHOLDS**

When do you "do something"? Some damage can be tolerated, or may be temporary Decisions are made based on research, degree of damage

#### **RESEARCH, EDUCATION**

What is the cause of the problem? Learn life cycles and target weakest stage - timing is important Don't assume controls are necessary until you have complete information

#### MONITORING, IDENTIFICATION

Inspect plants regularly; especially if pest-prone Be alert to potential problems in early stages and identify cause(s) correctly Check cultural situation first - improving growing conditions may be the best solution

#### PREVENTION

The foundation of IPM systems - don't have problems in the first place! Almost all prevention strategies are **cultural**.

First step is to test your soil, and amend it according to recommendations. Then choose the right plants for the site, plant them correctly, and care for them properly. When you use best cultural practices many pests can be prevented or minimized. Then use the rest of the IPM "pyramid" to keep the system in balance.

# ↑ START HERE AND WORK UPWARDS ↑

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