

PLANNING THE 3-SEASON VEGETABLE GARDEN - LINKS

(from NC State Extension unless otherwise noted)

Central NC Planting Calendar for Annual Vegetables, Fruits and Herbs

<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/central-north-carolina-planting-calendar-for-annual-vegetables-fruits-and-herbs>

- Planting Calendars from NC State Extension are also on their website for both Eastern and Western NC

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

<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/home-vegetable-gardening-a-quick-reference-guide>

Raised Beds (Clemson Cooperative Extension)

<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/raised-beds>

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/>

Starting Vegetable Seeds Indoors (Rutgers Cooperative Extension)

<https://njaes.rutgers.edu/fs787>

Controlling Weeds by Cultivating and Mulching (Clemson Cooperative Extension)

<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/controlling-weeds-by-cultivating-mulching>

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>

Square Foot Plant Spacing

To calculate the number of plants for one 12" x 12" square, check the Planting Calendar or seed package for the recommended distance between plants - ignore the row spacing, just look at the plant spacing:

- 12" apart, plant 1 per square
- 6" apart, plant 4 per square
- 4" apart, plant 9 per square
- 3" apart (or less), plant 16 per square



Some larger plants need more than one square! Use the recommended distance between plants.

Succession Planting – Basic Considerations

- What do you want to grow – what will your family eat, and what fits your objectives?
- When do those vegetables grow – are they cool or warm season? We can plan for 3-4 seasons.
- How much space does each crop need? Are supports required?
- When direct seeding any crop, plan for thinning to the correct spacing for mature plants.
Set out transplants at the correct distance for the mature size of the plant.
- Also remember the possible advantages of successive planting – for some crops, consider a staggered planting (example: plant some of your beans every two weeks instead of all at once).

*How long does each crop take until harvest, and what can come next? Be ready to plant something new after each crop is harvested. Remember to rotate plant families if possible.

*Draw a rough chart that shows each section of your garden, what plants will be there in each season, and approximately what dates you'll harvest and replant.

SAMPLE SUCCESSION PLAN: in a 4' x 16' bed there are four 4 x 4 spaces. Here is one possible example of a square foot succession plan for each area (will vary based on your choices!)

Area 1: lettuce 3/15, eggplant 5/30, broccoli 8/30

Area 2: peas 2/1, tomatoes 5/1, bush beans 8/15

Area 3: potatoes 3/1, cucumbers 6/15, turnips 8/30

Area 4: spinach 2/15, squash 4/15, carrots 7/15