

# GROW YOUR BEST VEGETABLE GARDEN - 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>

**How to Plant and Grow Spring Greens** (video, NC State Extension Homegrown series)

<https://homegrown.extension.ncsu.edu/2018/03/how-to-plant-and-grow-spring-greens>

**Raised Beds** (Clemson Cooperative Extension)

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

**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>

**Watering the Vegetable Garden** (Clemson Cooperative Extension): includes soaker hoses, 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](https://uknowledge.uky.edu/bae_present/1)

**Controlling Weeds by Cultivating and Mulching** (Clemson Cooperative Extension)

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

**Harvesting Vegetables** (Clemson Cooperative Extension)

<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/harvesting-vegetables>

## 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.

## Additional problem-solving resources

**Tomato Diseases and Disorders** (Clemson Cooperative Extension)

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

**Cucumber, Squash, Melon & Other Cucurbit Diseases** (Clemson Cooperative Extension)

<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/cucumber-squash-melon-other-cucurbit-diseases>

**Cucumber, Squash, Melon & Other Cucurbit Insect Pests** (Clemson Cooperative Extension)

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

**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>

## Integrated Pest Management and Best Practices

NC Extension Gardener Handbook – chapter 8, Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

<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 (NC State, Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology)

<https://pdic.ces.ncsu.edu>

Keep It Clean: Practices for Healthy Vegetable Gardens (NC State Extension Gardener)

<https://extensiongardener.ces.ncsu.edu/2022/01/keep-it-clean-practices-for-healthy-vegetable-gardens>

Less Toxic Insecticides (Clemson Cooperative Extension)

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

Minimizing Risks of Soil Contaminants in Urban Gardens (NC State Extension)

<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/minimizing-risks-of-soil-contaminants-in-urban-gardens>

## 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 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 (if space allows) to reduce fungal disease potential, 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

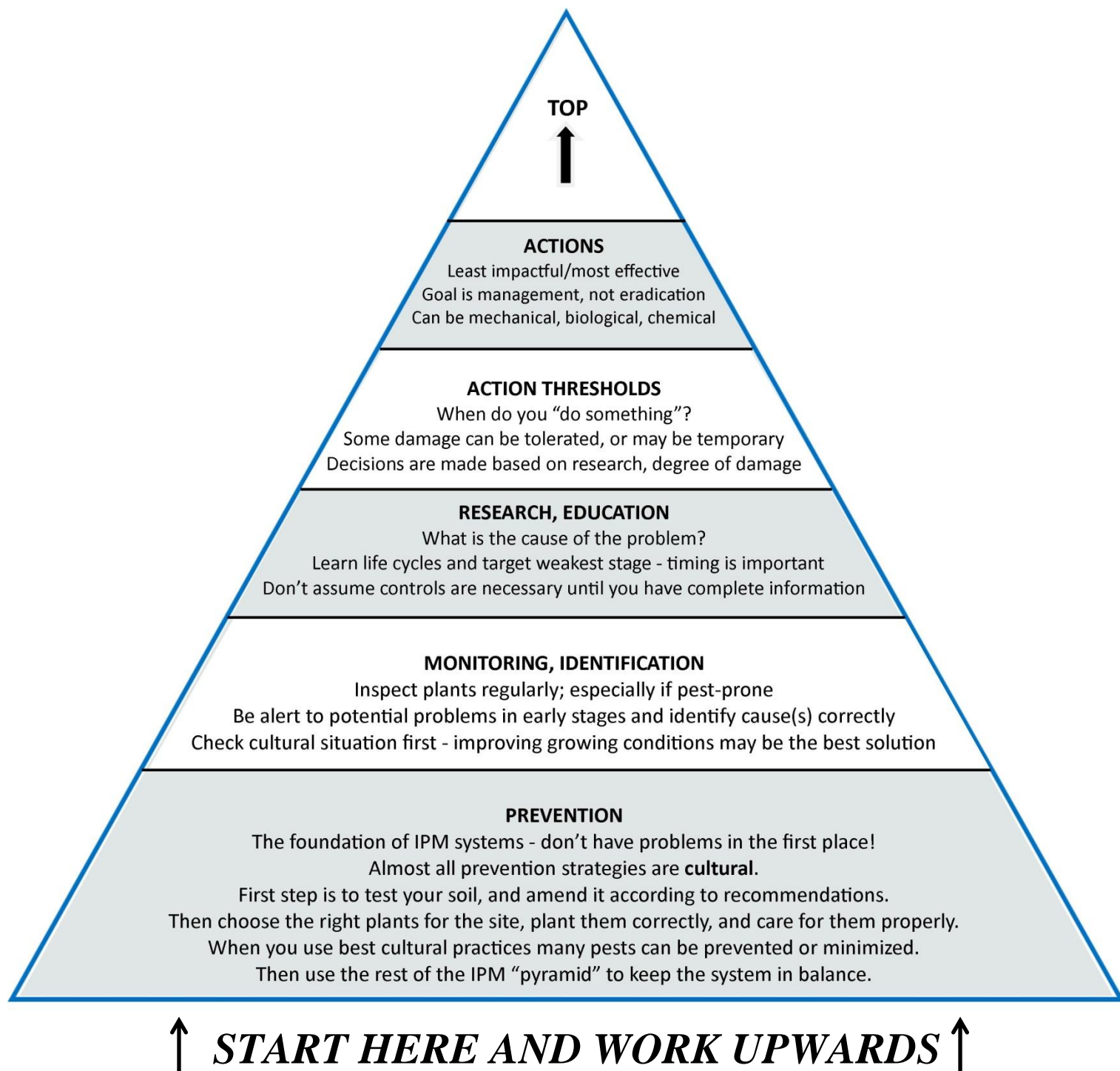
**NC STATE** EXTENSION

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**LIST COMPILED AND DISTRIBUTED BY NC STATE EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER<sup>SM</sup> VOLUNTEERS, GUILFORD COUNTY**  
**In Guilford County, contact us with questions: email [guilfordmg@gmail.com](mailto:guilfordmg@gmail.com), or leave a message at 336-641-2404**

# THE IPM “PYRAMID”

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



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