



Johnson's Garden Talk

Lawn and garden information for the friends and customers of Johnson's Garden Centers

Johnson's Garden Talk

April 2006



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How Will Your Garden Grow?

Wes Karst,

Johnson's West 13th Store

Spring is here and both novice and experienced gardeners are anxious to get their vegetables planted. We all enjoy eating vegetables freshly harvested from our own garden. By following a few easy guidelines, you'll be well on your way to a successful gardening season.

For starters, choose a site that gets at least six hours of direct sunlight. The site should be well drained and away from trees and shrubs so their roots won't compete for the same water supply. Also decide on the size of your garden. In your enthusiasm, don't plant more than you can realistically maintain.

Next, you need to prepare your soil. Vegetables grow best in fertile, well-drained soil. An ideal garden soil will contain at least 20% organic matter to improve aeration and drainage, as well as to hold nutrients until plants can use them. A good way to improve your soil is with Johnson's Soil Recipe that covers 100 sq. ft.:

- Three 2-cu. ft. bags Cotton Boll Compost
- 4 lbs. Hi-Yield Bone Meal
- 4 lbs. ferti•lome Gardener's Special
- 40 lbs. Gypsum
- 1 lb. American Weed and Grass Stopper

Use MYKE Vegetable Garden, a beneficial soil inoculant, along with Johnson's Soil Recipe. MYKE contains a natural fungus that enhances plant development when it comes into contact with plant roots.

Next, decide what you would like to grow in your garden. Then draw out on paper how you would like to arrange them. Lay out your plan so that the taller vegetables don't block out the sun of the smaller ones. If you want to plant vine crops but have limited space, don't despair. There are "bush" varieties of vine crops such as cucumbers and squash.

Another space-saving idea, especially for tomatoes, is to plant them upside down with the Topsy Turvy II Tomato Planter. It's easy! Place your tomato upside down out of the bottom of the planter and fill up the rest of the planter with soil. Hang the planter on your deck or balcony and you have an instant upside down garden. Water and fertilize from the top and watch the tomato grow down from the bottom. Imagine ... no weeding or staking; and you can walk right out the door to pick a tomato. You can also plant cucumbers, peppers and flowers in the Topsy Turvy II Planter.

That's all for now. Hope you enjoy another new season of successful gardening! ■

Use this chart to determine the optimum time to plant. It's OK to "push the envelope" a little by planting earlier if you take precautions to protect plants from frost. (The average last killing frost is April 9.) Likewise, don't be wary of planting a little later than charted here.

Available at Johnson's:	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
roots	---ASPARAGUS---		
seeds		-----BEANS-----	
seeds	---CARROTS---		
seeds / plants		---CUCUMBERS---	
seeds / plants	-BROCCOLI-		
seeds / plants	-CAULIFLOWER-		
seeds / plants		---EGGPLANT---	
seeds	-----LETTUCE-----		
seeds / plants		-----MELONS-----	
seeds / plants		-----PEPPERS-----	
seed potatoes	-POTATOES-		
seeds	-RADISH-		
plants	---RHUBARB---		
seeds / plants		-----PUMPKIN-----	
sets / plants	---ONIONS---		
seeds	-----PEAS-----		
seeds	-----RADISH-----		
seeds / plants	-----SPINACH-----		
slips		---SWEET POTATOES---	
seeds / plants		-----TOMATOES-----	