

Tips for Early and Late Season Vegetable Gardening Spring Home Gardeners School

Benefits of gardening in the “off” season

	<u>Spring</u>	<u>Fall</u>
Gardening enthusiasm is high!	✓	
Fewer weeds/insects/diseases	✓	
Nice weather: Not too hot	✓	✓
More sunlight than when leaf canopy is out	✓	
Less watering	✓	✓
Your own “spring” vegetables		✓

The importance of good soil

Soil Basics: Texture, Structure, Biological and Chemical Properties

Soil Test: Info on soil biological and physical properties: pH, nutrients, respiration

Plant selection

Site selection: Exposure

Vegetable variety and seed selection

Container selection/bed preparation

Vegetables you can plant today (outdoors from seed) and eat within 8 weeks: Arugula, Asian Greens, Cilantro, Collards, Kale, Lettuces, Mustard Greens, PEAS, Radishes, Spinach, Swiss Chard
From Seedlings: Broccoli, Cauliflower, Brussel Sprouts, Cabbages

Planting calendars: (key words to search: Zone 7 Spring Planting Guide)

www.burpee.com search Growing Calendar

Looking ahead: Intercropping, succession cropping, season extenders

Covers crops (benefits including mycorrhizal fungi, N Fixation and Climate Change)

<http://www.gardening.cornell.edu/factsheets/ecogardening/impsoilcov.html>

A few favorite books:

All New Square Foot Gardening by Mel Bartholomew

Weedless Gardening by Lee Reich

Week-by-Week Vegetable Gardener’s Handbook by Ron Kujawski and Jennifer Kujawski

www.growingwisdom.com Dave Epstein

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