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

Benefits of gardening in the “off” season

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