

## Success With Vegetable Gardening

1. Find the sunniest spot you have – at least 5 hours that include the noon hour when the sun is strongest.
2. For a new garden, loosen the soil as deeply as you can (at least 8 inches) and work in compost/composted manure.
3. Have a pH test done and lime accordingly. At some point, it's a good idea to have a complete soil test done at UMASS Soil Lab.
4. Plant peas, lettuce, parsley and cole crops (broccoli, cabbage etc) in mid-late April depending on the weather.
5. Plant everything else at the end of May. Don't plant tomatoes, eggplant, peppers or basil until the *night time* temperatures are reliably above 50.
6. Plant the following from seeds: corn, chard, beans, peas, lettuce, potatoes, kohlrabi, beets, carrots, turnips, radish. Plant spinach from seeds, but sow in early September.
7. Plant the following from plants or seeds: basil, cucumbers, squash, kale, broccoli.
8. Put these into the garden as small plants: tomatoes, eggplant, peppers, Brussels sprouts.
9. These plants like a long, hot summer and may not do so well on the Cape: watermelon, melons, eggplant, peppers.
10. Weed early and weed often. Hoes are classic tools for a reason. Mulch helps but is not the entire answer.
11. Water deeply less often – every five days in cooler weather, every three or four (mulch makes it possible to go longer) in hot temps.
12. Floating row cover is one solution to animal/insect problems. Green Cure for mildew, Spinosad for larvae, insecticidal soap or handpicking for other bugs, Serenade for fungal problems.