

HYANNIS

COUNTRY GARDEN

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 and soil test done and lime/fertilize accordingly. UMASS Soil Lab: <https://ag.umass.edu/services/soil-plant-nutrient-testing-laboratory>
4. Plant peas, lettuce, parsley and cole crops (broccoli, cabbage etc) in mid-late April to mid-May depending on the weather.
5. Plant everything else at the end of May or early June. 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. Plant Garlic in the fall. Plant potatoes from seed potatoes (cut in half or quarter).
7. Plant the following from plants or seeds: basil, cucumbers, squash, kale, broccoli, Brussels sprouts.
8. Put these into the garden as plants: tomatoes, eggplant, peppers.
9. These plants like a long, hot summer and may not do well if the season is cool: 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 for weed control.
11. Water deeply less often – every five to seven days in cooler weather, every three or four (mulch makes it possible to go longer) in hot weather. Don't water at night. Hand water seedlings only – once the plants get large deeper soakings are needed.
12. Floating row cover for animal/insect problems. DE for earwigs and slugs, Spinosad or Bt for larvae & potato beetle, insecticidal soap or handpicking for other bugs, Serenade or Revitalize for fungal problems. Once you have early or late blight use Copper fungicide but know it's toxic to aquatic life so use sparingly.