



Tending the Garden -- When to Pick?



WSU COWLITZ COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

Gary Fredricks: Extension Director/MG Coordinator

garyf@wsu.edu

(360) 577- 3014 ext 3

304 COWLITZ WAY
KELSO, WA 98626



EXTENSION
Master Gardener
Program



The Planting is Done, Now to Reap the Rewards!

Topics we will be covering:

Reminders about planting.

Importance of record keeping.

To pick or not to pick that is the question?

Vegetables and fruit grown in the garden.





Vegetable Planting Reminder:

Vegetables that germinate in 35° F soil temperature include: lettuce, onion, parsnip, and spinach.

Vegetables that germinate in 40° F soil temperature include: fava bean, beet, broccoli, Brussel sprouts, Chinese cabbage, cabbage, carrot, cauliflower, kale, collard, kohlrabi, leek, parsley, radish, rutabaga, pea, Swiss chard, celery, and turnip.

- Carrot, pea, lettuce, kohlrabi, greens, beet, and radish grow easily from seeds can be sown directly into the soil.

Hardy Vegetables - asparagus, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, collards, onions, rutabaga (can be started indoors and transplanted) while kale, kohlrabi, leek, peas, radishes, spinach, turnips (can be direct sown).

Semi-Hardy Vegetables - artichoke, cauliflower, celery (can be started indoors and transplanted) while arugula, Asian greens, beets, carrots, endive, lettuce, potatoes, salsify (relative of parsnip), Swiss chard (can be direct sown).

Warm Weather Crops - cantaloupe, cucumber, pumpkin, tomato, pepper, sweet potato, squash, sweet corn, lima beans, watermelon, eggplant, snap bean plant after the last frost day (many in our area suggest first week of June to be safe!).

When to Plant a couple of great sites:

- <https://territorialseed.com/blogs/spring-growing-guides>
- <https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/2073/2014/09/Home-Vegetable-Gardening-in-Washington.pdf>





Seed packets and catalogs contain helpful information. . .

Aroma II Packed for 2015

HR1042/L 8 4 8 6 7 2 0 3 9 0 7 8

Seed Depth	Seed Spacing	Soil Temp for Germ.	Days to Germ	Thin Plants to
1/4"	See Below	70-85°F	5-14	12-18"

Sowing Indoors-Start seeds 3-4 weeks before your last spring frost. Sow into sterile seedling mix and lightly cover the seed with fine vermiculite. Strong light is necessary to keep the seedlings from getting leggy. Fertilize lightly and grow at 62-65°F until planting outside.

Sowing Outdoors-Not recommended, but you may direct sow when nighttime temperatures are consistently above 50°F.

Growing Tips-As basil grows, pinch off the tips to promote a bushier plant. Remove the flower heads to prolong the harvest period.

Fertilization Tips-Apply 1/4 cup of our complete fertilizer per 10 row feet to provide the nutrition necessary for optimum production.

Harvesting Tips-Cut off the top few inches of the stem every 2-3 weeks. Basil can be used fresh, dried, or frozen. If you can't use all of your freshly harvested basil, place the stem in water for a day or two as basil does not refrigerate well.

Seed Specs-Min. germ. standard: 75%. Usual seed life: 3 years.

Please read our seed guarantee before opening this envelope.

PO Box 158, Cottage Grove, OR 97424
Phone Orders: 800-626-0866
Web: www.TerritorialSeed.com

7 50570 82115 0

5057

Bodacious CORN
Zea mays

A vigorous sweet corn with plump, sugary kernels on slender 8" ears. High disease resistance and cool weather tolerance. An excellent choice for freezing and canning, or eating fresh off the cob.

SEED DEPTH
1" (3cm)

PLANT SPACE
12" (30cm)

ROW SPACE
36" (91cm)

SPROUTS IN
7-10 days

MATURES IN
75 days

SEED COUNT
approx. 60

PLANTING
Corn prefers fertile soil and regular moisture. Sow outdoors in late spring after soil is completely warm (at least 65°F). For best pollination and well-filled ears, plant in blocks of at least four rows.

HARVEST
Ears are ready to pick about 20 days after silks appear, and when silk at the tip of the ear is brown and dry.

Lake Valley Seed Company, Inc.
5717 Anapahoe Ave.
Boulder, CO 80303

Recycled Paper
40% Pre-Consumer Content
10% Post-Consumer Content

Packed for 2021 Soil by 12/21 Lot A





Keep a record -

3/28 started Basil
Kale
Radishes
parsley
potted up tomatoes
tomatillo & jalapeno

3/24 planted onions
COPRA
ALISA CRAIG - great
WALLA WALLA
chipolini, leek, red topped
* went to seed

4/22 planted out Cabbage
& lettuce seedlings
low hoop & frost blanket.

4/22 planted peas
started harvest 7/8/11
Dakota 1st - small
Cargol - 7/12 - large
Adelman 2nd - heavy produce

4/26 started spinach -
cilantro

planted scallions in
box - sprouted 5/19
harvest 7-8

4/28 - planted (started)
inside Cukes, squash
pumpkins, gourds
*** 5/17 32° - freeze

5/19 started melons
inside
sugar baby
2015 yellow doll
2017 Bangra
ambrosia
honey dew
6-20
minislot

2017 Helona
2017 Minnesota midget
yellow doll

6/5 planted corn
beans
wheat

replanted
6/24 some
corn & beans
staying cool & wet
6/27 - 48°

replanted sweet potato 5
6-10

2011

3/22/11 started tomato seeds
Burbank - D
Bills all purpose - D
Momotaro - 1D
3/27/11 High Caroten 1D
Legend D -
Fantastic - 1D
Super Marzano - D
tomatillo
Jalapeno - Felicity
tomatillo

2/24 started impatiens
Zinnia - pita p 3/28

3/4 - started lettuce
Cabbage family
bell peppers

Transplanted and fertilized all tomatoes into gallon pots and all peppers into 3 gallon pots. Planted 1 salad lettuce bowl. Kept all in greenhouse. Turned on lower property

4/8/2020 water supply.

4/15/2020 Rhodies bloomed.

4/27/2020 Lilacs bloomed.

4/30/2020 Desiduous Azalea bloomed.

Planted 75 Bodacious corn in 3.5" pots soil, compost and perlite. Brought 3 fuchsia up

5/4/2020 from greenhouse. Brought 1st lettuce bowl up and planted 2nd bowl.

5/7/2020 Lettuce bowl sprouted

5/8/2020 Pruned magnolia, red maple by porch and fir trees getting branches off the ground.

5/9/2020 Corn germinated.

Purchased 2 Hardy Fuchsias (Baby Blue Eyes), 1 Nikko Blue Hydrangea, 2 Orange Rocket Barberry, 2 Minuet Weigela, 2 Miniature Snowflake Mock Orange (Philadelphus x

5/9/2020 vierginalis), 2 Java Red Weigela and various annuals.

5/10/2020 Planted ornamentals

Planted 36 blue lake green beans and fertilized and weeded 5 blueberries with 2/3 cup

5/11/2020 per plant of Lilly Miller Rhododendron Evergreen & Azalea Food 10 5 4 (NPK).

5/14/2020 Planted 16 more seeds of Bodacious Corn

5/19/2020 8 of 16 Bodacious and 2 of 36 green beans germinated

Uncovered garden beds and rototilled. The best soil I have ever had. Set-up irrigation

5/24/2020 manifold.

Planted 2 Super Sweet 100s, 2 Early Girls, 3 Big Boys and 3 Beefmasters. Each hole got 1/2 cup bone meal and 2 TBSP of Jobes Organic Heirloom Tomato fertilizer mixed with

5/25/2020 soil. Watered deeply with hose.

5/27/2020 Set up drip irrigation and covered tomato open areas with mulch from grass clippings
Set up soaker hoses for each 25 foot row of corn. Planted 75 Bodacious corn stalks 3 rows 1 foot apart next to soaker hoses. Covered corn open areas with mulch from grass

5/28/2020 clippings.

Planted and fenced in 2 blue lake green bean teepees and planted 4 established from

6/8/2020 greenhouse and 28 directly sowed Ed Hume seeds.

Tomatoes are starting to look better after transplant and had to re-stabilize corn after

6/10/2020 rains.





To Pick or not to Pick that is the Question?



Artichokes, Globe:

What is eaten:

Immature bloom.

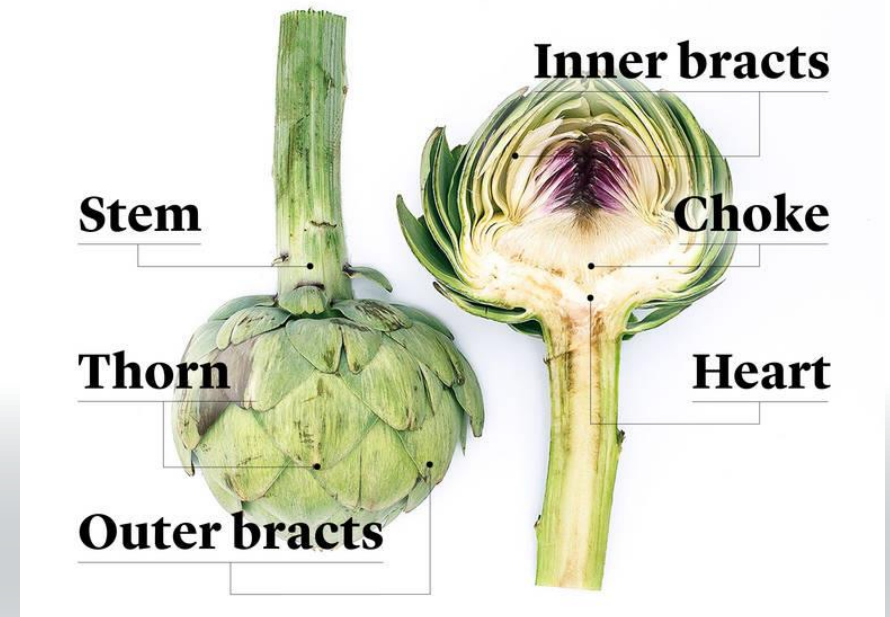
When to pick:

Too early - Small flower buds.

Optimum maturity - When buds are 2 - 4" in diameter.

Too late - Large buds with loose scales or bracts.

Discard the center "choke" (except in baby artichokes), but the base of the petals, the center of the stem and the entire artichoke heart are completely edible and easy to cook.



Asparagus: <https://extension.umn.edu/growing-guides/harvesting-asparagus>

What is eaten:

Stem.

When to pick:

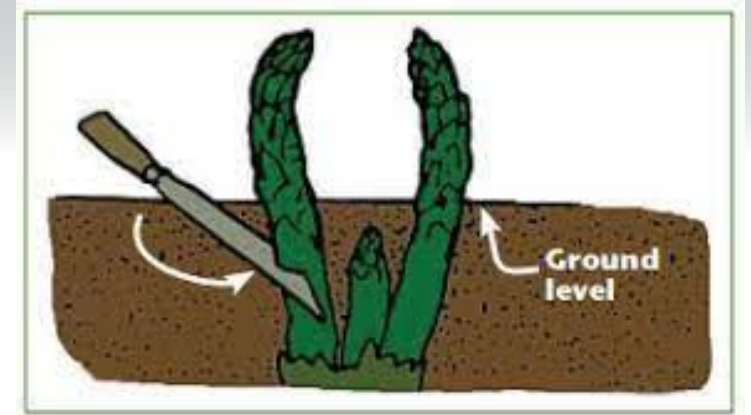
Too early - Insufficient length.

Optimum maturity - 6 - 8 inches long with no fiber.

Too late - Excess woody fiber in the stem.

Recommended to be cut below ground at the white woody part. This will allow the plant to retain water and last longer.

You can cut it at ground level.





Beans, Lima: (Bush or Pole)

What is eaten:

Seed.

When to pick:

Too early - Insufficient bean size.

Optimum maturity - Bright green puffy pod; large seed.

Too late - Yellow pods.





Beans, Pole Green: (Needs support)

What is eaten:

Pod and seed.

When to pick:

Too early - Insufficient bean size.

Optimum maturity - Bean cavity full;
seed $\frac{1}{4}$ grown.

Too late - Large seed; fibrous pod.



Beans, Snap Bush:

What is eaten:

Pod and seed.

When to pick:

Too early - Insufficient bean size.

Optimum maturity - Turgid (swollen) pods; seeds just visible.

Too late - Large seed; fibrous pods.





Beets:

What is eaten:

Root and leaves.

When to pick:

Too early - Insufficient size.

Optimum maturity - Roots 2 - 3 inches in diameter.

Too late - Pithy roots; strong taste.





Broccoli:

What is eaten:

Immature bloom.

When to pick:

Too early - Insufficient size.

Optimum maturity - Bright green color; bloom still tightly closed.

Too late - Loose head; some blooms beginning to show.



Brussel Sprouts:

What is eaten:

Head.

When to pick:

Too early - Insufficient size. Hard to harvest.

Optimum maturity - bright green; tight head.

Too late - Loose head; color changes to green-yellow.





Cabbage:

What is eaten:

Head.

When to pick:

Too early - Insufficient leaf cover.

Optimum maturity - Heads firm; leaf tight.

Too late - Loose leaf; heads cracked open.





Cantaloupes:

What is eaten:

Fruit.

When to pick:

Too early - Stem does not want to separate from fruit.

Optimum maturity - Stem breaks away easily and cleanly when pulled.

Too late - Yellow background color; soft rind.





Carrots:

What is eaten:

Roots.

When to pick:

Too early - Insufficient size.

Optimum maturity - $\frac{1}{2}$ " to $\frac{3}{4}$ " at shoulder.

Too late - Strong taste; oversweet.





Cauliflower:

What is eaten:

Immature bloom.

When to pick:

Too early - Head not developed.

Optimum maturity - Compact head; fairly smooth.

Too late - Curds open; separate.





Celery:

What is eaten:

Stems.

When to pick:

Too early - Stem too small.

Optimum maturity - Plant stands 12" to 15" tall; medium-thick stem.

Too late - Seed stalk formed; bitterness.



Collards:

What is eaten:

Leaf.

When to pick:

Too early - Insufficient leaf size.

Optimum maturity - Bright green color; small midrib.

Too late - Large midrib; fibrous.





Corn, Sweet:

What is eaten:

Grain.

When to pick:

Too early - Grain watery; small.

Optimum maturity - Grain plump;
liquid in milk stage.

Too late - Grain starting to dent;
liquid in dough stage.





Cucumber:

What is eaten:

Fruit.

When to pick:

Too early - Insufficient size.

Optimum maturity - Dark green skin;
soft seeds.

Too late - Skin beginning to yellow;
hard seeds.





Eggplant:

What is eaten:

Fruit.

When to pick:

Too early - Insufficient size.

Optimum maturity - High glossy skin; side springs back when mashed.

Too late - Brown seeds; side will not spring back when mashed.





Lettuce, Head:

What is eaten:

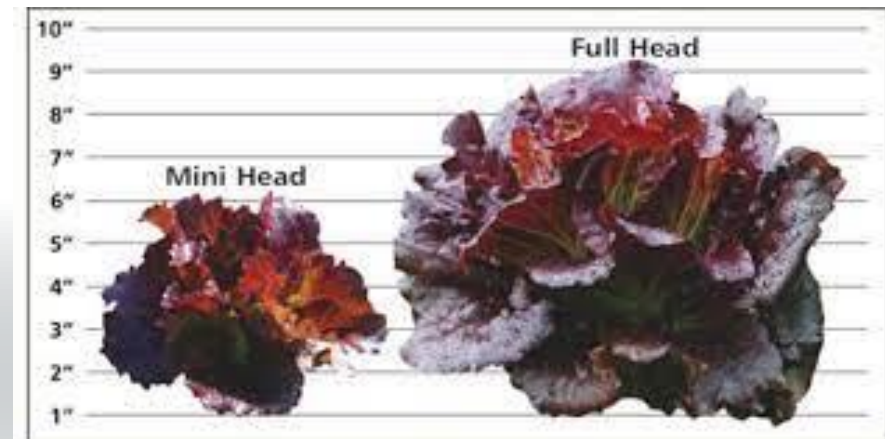
Leaves.

When to pick:

Too early - Head not fully formed.

Optimum maturity - Fairly firm;
good size.

Too late - Heads very hard.





Okra:

What is eaten:

Fruit.

When to pick:

Too early - Insufficient size.

Optimum maturity - 2" to 3" long;
still tender.

Too late - Fiber development;
tough pods.





Onion, Dry:

What is eaten:

Bulb.

When to pick:

Too early - Tops all green.

Optimum maturity - Tops yellow; $\frac{3}{4}$ fallen over.

Too late - All tops down; bulb rot started.



Drying onions is as important as planting them. Storing them damp they'll rot.





Pea, English (Shelling):

What is eaten:

Seed.

When to pick:

Too early - Peas immature and too small to shell.

Optimum maturity - Peas small to medium; sweet bright green.

Too late - Yellow pods; large peas.





Pea, Southern (Cowpea or Field Pea):

What is eaten:

Seed and pod.

When to pick:

Too early - Peas immature and too small to shell.

Optimum maturity - Seeds fully developed but still soft; soft pods.

Too late - Hard seeds; dry pods.





Pepper, Pimiento (sweet heart shaped pepper):

What is eaten:

Pod.

When to pick:

Too early - Insufficient size.

Optimum maturity - Bright red and firm.

Too late - Shriveled pod.





Pepper, Red Bell:

What is eaten:

Pod.

When to pick:

Too early - Chocolate-colored pods.

Optimum maturity - Bright red and firm.

Too late - Shriveled pod.





Potato, Irish:

What is eaten:

Tuber.

When to pick:

Too early - Insufficient size.

Optimum maturity - When tops begin to die back.

Too late - Damaged by freezing weather.





Potato, Sweet:

What is eaten:

Root.

When to pick:

Too early - Small size; immature.

Optimum maturity - Most roots 2" to 3" in diameter.

Too late - Early plantings get too large and crack; damaged by soil temperature below 50° F.





Rhubarb:

What is eaten:

Stem.

When to pick:

Too early - Small size; immature.

Optimum maturity - Stem 8" to 15" long is best.

Too late - Fleshy stem becomes fibrous.





Squash, Summer:

What is eaten:

Fruit.

When to pick:

Too early - Insufficient size.

Optimum maturity - Rind can be penetrated with thumbnail.

Too late - Penetrating with thumbnail is difficult; large seed.





Squash, Winter:

What is eaten:

Fruit.

When to pick:

Too early - Soft rind.

Optimum maturity - Rind difficult to penetrate with thumbnail.

Too late - Damaged by frost.





Tomato:

What is eaten:

Fruit.

May be harvested in three stages:

Mature green - tomato is firm and mature, color changes from green to light green, no pink color showing on blossom end. These tomatoes will store one to two weeks in the refrigerator.

Pink - pink color about the size of a dime on the blossom end. At room temperature, these tomatoes will ripen in about three days.

Ripe - tomato is full red but still firm. Should be used immediately.





Watermelon:

What is eaten:

Fruit.

When to pick:

Too early - Green flesh; green stem is difficult to separate.

Optimum maturity - Melon surface next to the ground turns from a light straw color to a richer yellow.

Too late - Top surface has a dull look.





Summary:

- Reminders about planting.
- Importance of record keeping.
- To pick or not to pick that is the question?
- Vegetables & fruit grown in the garden.





References:

Tremendous amounts of information on Harvesting Vegetables, Growing Seasons, and Gardening in general can be found on the internet. Regretfully, much of it is of limited quality or value. To help refine your search, try adding the term site:edu to your search to focus on Extension publications and other research based information. A slightly broader range of material (yet still filtered of much of the undesired results) can be found by using the alternate “Google Scholar” site at www.scholar.google.com .

WSU Sites:

<http://gardening.wsu.edu>

<https://pubs.extension.wsu.edu/general-gardening>

<https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/2073/2014/09/Home-Vegetable-Gardening-in-Washington.pdf>

OSU Sites:

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu>

<https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/files/project/pdf/em9027.pdf>

Seed Companies:

www.territorialseed.com & <https://territorialseed.com/blogs/spring-growing-guides>

www.Johnnyseeds.com





Preparing the Garden:

Presented by the

WSU Extension of Cowlitz County

Master Gardner Program.

304 Cowlitz Way

Kelso, WA 98626

Gary Fredricks

garyf@wsu.edu

(360) 577- 3014 ext 3

9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

<https://www.cowlitzcomg.com/>

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY



COWLITZ COUNTY EXTENSION

WSU Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance should be reported to your local WSU Extension office.

