



Tips For a Great Vegetable Garden

Whether you are an experienced grower or new to gardening, tips are always helpful. Millions of Americans will plant a vegetable garden this year and all will realize great benefits, not the least of which is eating healthy produce grown by you.

LOPD Gardens is in a perfect place. Van Laten Park offers a quiet, beautiful space with a shelter for resting out of the sun, a water source, a large flat area with direct sunlight, and a nearby parking lot.

So let's get started...

LOCATION This is the big one! Successful vegetable gardens need an open sunny location with plants enjoying at least 6 hours of sun each day. LOPD Gardens offers just that with lots of direct sunlight and a close by water source.

CHOOSING VEGETABLES When choosing what you will grow, take a moment to read the seed packets. Not all vegetables thrive in all areas. Make sure your vegetables are recommended for the Midwest. Another variable – growing time. You will want to choose vegetables that will grow within the LOPD Gardens planting season of May 1 to October 31.

CHOOSE EASY VEGETABLES Gardening should be a stress-reducing, relaxing experience, so choose vegetables that are easy to grow. And choose vegetables that you like to eat. It is tempting to try it all but produce that ends us withering on the vine is a bit sad.

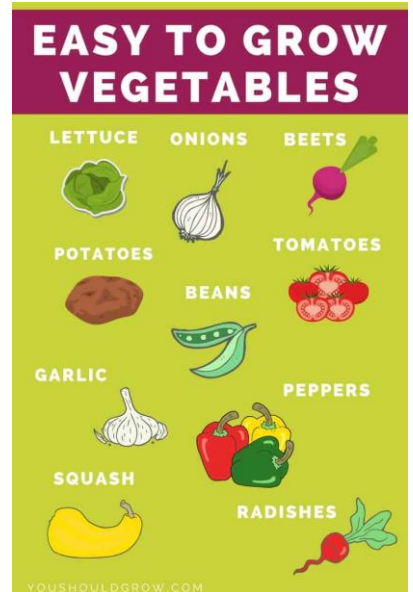
DON'T OVER-PLANT Remember – you aren't growing food for the year, you are growing produce to eat for the summer, so plant accordingly. Don't overdo it.

RICH SOIL Most dirt needs a little help to become a rich environment for growing. Investigate natural, organic mulch and supplements that will enrich the soil and keep your garden healthy. Grass clippings are a great choice that improves the soil, reduces moisture loss, and helps prevent weeds in your garden.

WATERING Overwatering is common. Most gardens only need one inch of water each week and that includes natural rainfall.

MAKE A PLAN This is fun! Grab some paper and a pencil, read your seed packets, plot the correct growing space for each vegetable, and draw your perfect garden plan!

LAST BUT NOT LEAST, RELAX, ENJOY THE OUTDOORS, HAVE FUN, AND EAT SOME DELICIOUS, FRESH FOOD GROWN BY YOU!



- CORN
- BEANS
- SUMMER SQUASH
- WINTER SQUASH
- BASIL
- CUCUMBER
- EGGPLANT
- OKRA
- PEPPER
- SWEET POTATO
- TOMATO

