How to Start a Vegetable Garden

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Could this be your harvest?
Types of Growing System

- Containers
- Raised Beds/Box Garden
- Terraces
- Conventional in ground garden
Locating your garden

- Area that get 6-8 hours of sun
  - Preferably morning sun
- Away from high traffic areas
- Near a water source
Design Your Garden On Paper

- Make a sketch of your garden
- Include such items as irrigation lines, walkways, dimensions, growing areas etc.
Midsize Garden Layout
(one square = 6"

10'

Tomatoes in cages
Radish
Beets

Green Bean - Bush Type

Lettuce
Swiss Chard
Carrots

Cucumber
Summer
Squash

Zucchini

10'
Balcony side view

- Hanging basket on pole
- Climbing vine by the door
- Shade plant
- Partial-sun herbs & flowers
- Big plants (sun-loving trees and vegetables)
- Hanging baskets or flower box

Illustration details:
- Smiley sun symbol

Soils

- Have your soil tested
- Prepare your growing medium in advance
- For containers and raised bed you can customize the soil.
- Add manures, compost, and other organic matter annually to improve soil quality.
Soil Fertility - Basic Fertilizer

- Nitrogen (N) Phosphorus (P) Potassium (K)
  Plus trace elements boron, iron, zinc, manganese, sulphur etc.
Selecting seeds and plants

- Purchase fresh seed
- Store seeds in a cool
- Purchase seedlings that are 4-5 weeks old
- Purchase seedlings that are green and vigorous
Selecting seeds and plants

- Some vegetables grow better depending on the season.
- Late October through early March is optimum.
- High temperature will affect flowering.
Types of Vegetables

broccoli beans, beets, corn, cabbage, celery, carrots, cauliflower, eggplants, kohlrabi, collard greens pak choi, warm season leaf lettuce, kale, tomatoes, sweet, hot and seasoning pepper, butternut, zucchini, and yellow squash, sweet potatoes, cucumbers, turnips, radishes, okra, onions, chinese cabbage......
Pest Control

- Identify pests
- Select appropriate controls
  - Pesticides: Synthetic, Natural, or combination
  - Traps, lures, baits,
- Scout for pests often
- Integrated Pest Management
Irrigation and Moisture Retention

- Drip Irrigation: Most efficient
  - Use a timer for even more efficiency
- Use mulch to retain moisture and reduce weeds. i.e. wood chips, grass, weed barriers, news papers, straw
- Soil moisture should be consistent
Traditional ways of watering plants
Drip Irrigation
Improve Your Neighborhood
Plant a Garden