

Coppell Community Garden Organic Planting Guide

Soil Preparations for Planting: Spread a ½” to 1” layer of compost. Gently breakup the soil with a garden fork and level surface. Remember soil is alive with bacteria, fungi, insects, spiders, earthworms and other critters, so caring for the soil must be foremost. Plant roots are working with bacteria, fungi, worms, and organic matter to create a crumbly soil structure that allows air and water to penetrate into the soil. We disturb this each time we dig or till the soil, or allow the soil to be exposed to the sun and wind. Soil amendments can be added to keep the soil healthy such as organic fertilizer, dry molasses, diluted fish emulsion or seaweed extract (2 oz. to 1 gallon of water) sprinkled from a watering can. Water well and mulch to protect the surface by applying a light layer of compost, leaves, straw, and/or manure, if not planting in the next week.



Planting by Seed: Check the seed packet for planting depth and spacing. Moisten the soil and plant seeds. Water gently, like rain, keeping the bed evenly moist until the plant emerges. Most greens, like lettuces, can be easily transplanted when they are young to get spaced evenly. Do not move root crops, but thin them (either by cutting or lifting plants) creating the required distance between plants that allows the space needed to grow. Water gently and mulch between plants with unfinished compost, leaves, straw, and/or manure.

Planting by Transplants: Best to plant in the cool part of the day. Moisten garden plot thoroughly and water transplant pots with seaweed/fish emulsion extract diluted in water. Make a hole in the soil the size of the pot and remove the plant from the pot. Gently set plant in hole and push soil back around plant. Water gently, like rain, and mulch around the transplants, but keep mulch about an inch away from the stems.

Seeds and New Plants Need Good Soil: Good soil will have proper drainage, periodic addition of organic matter, and microbial activity. Focusing on soil health will grow a healthy plant that will produce well, resist pests and diseases, and endure weather changes. Continually adding compost throughout the growing season will help maintain good soil health. Learn more about organic gardening and composting through the Keep Coppell Beautiful Environmental Education programs.



Planting Calendar for Organic Edible Gardening in North Texas

VEGETABLE	Seed, Thin, Plant to	Seeding (I=indoors)		Transplanting		Days to Harvest
		Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall	
Broccoli	12"	I 1/10 - 1/25	8/8 - 9/1	2/10 - 3/1	8/20 - 9/20	55-80
Cabbage	24"	I 1/10 - 1/25	8/1 - 8/15	2/10 - 3/1	8/20 - 9/20	60-120
Cauliflower	24"	I 1/10 - 1/25	8/1 - 8/15	2/10 - 3/1	8/20 - 9/20	70-90
Bok Choy	8 - 12"	I 1/10 - 1/25	8/8 - 9/1	2/15 - 3/1	8/25 - 9/15	30-90
Cilantro	5 - 10"	1/15 - 1/25	9/1 - 11/1	X	X	30-60
Leeks (plants)	4 - 6"	X	X	2/1 - 3/5	X	95-160
Onions (plants)	4 - 6"	X	X	2/1 - 3/5	X	95-160
Radishes	1 - 2"	2/5 - 5/1	9/1 - 11/1	X	X	25-30
Beets	3 - 5"	2/10 - 3/1	9/1 - 9/15	X	X	50-65
Carrots	1 - 2"	2/10 - 3/1	8/1 - 9/5	X	X	70-80
Collards	8 - 12"	2/10 - 3/20	8/15 - 10/1	3/1 - 3/30	8/25 - 10/1	50-75
Kale	8 - 12"	2/10 - 3/20	8/15 - 10/1	3/1 - 3/30	8/25 - 10/1	50-75
Lettuce	8 - 12"	2/10 - 3/10	8/15 - 9/1	3/1 - 3/30	9/1 - 9/30	40-90
Parsley	8 - 12"	2/10 - 2/25	9/1 - 11/1	X	X	90
Peas - (sugar snap)	2 - 3"	2/10 - 3/1	9/1 - 10/1	X	X	50-70
Potatoes (seed eye)	24"	2/10 - 3/1	7/25 - 8/15	X	X	85-110
Spinach	3 - 5"	2/10 - 3/15	9/15 - 10/20	3/1 - 3/15	9/15 - 10/15	45-60
Swiss Chard	6 - 8"	2/10 - 3/10	8/10 - 9/1	3/1 - 3/30	X	50-60
Turnips	3 - 5"	2/10 - 3/10	8/25 - 10/15	X	X	30-55
Beans (bush)	4 - 6"	3/15 - 4/15	8/1 - 9/15	X	X	45-60
Beans (pole)	6"	3/15 - 4/15	8/1 - 8/15	X	X	50-60
Cantaloupe/Melons	8 - 12"	3/15 - 5/1	X	X	X	60 - 90
Mustard Greens	3 - 4"	3/15 - 4/15	8/25 - 9/15	X	X	30-55
Cucumbers	12 - 18"	3/25 - 5/1	8/1 - 8/15	X	X	50-70
Peas (Southern)	4 - 6"	3/25 - 5/20	7/1 - 8/1	X	X	50-80
Squash (summer)	18 - 24"	3/25 - 5/1	8/1 - 8/25	X	X	50-65
Squash (winter)	12 - 24"	3/25 - 5/1	7/1 - 8/10	X	X	45-120
Okra	24"	3/25 - 6/1	7/15 - 8/15	X	X	45-60
Sweet Potato (slips)	12 - 24"	X	X	4/5 - 6/15	X	120-140
Garlic Cloves	4 - 6"	X	9/1 - 11/1	X	X	150-200
TRANSPLANTS ONLY						
Tomatoes	24 - 36"	I 1/5 - 2/10	I 6/20 - 7/1	3/25 - 4/15	7/1 - 8/10	65 - 90
Eggplant	18 - 24"	I 1/15 - 3/1	X	4/5 - 5/1	X	90 - 120
Peppers	12 - 24"	I 1/5 - 3/1	I 6/1 - 7/15	3/25 - 5/1	7/1 - 8/10	60 - 100