There are different ways to accommodate anyone who wants to garden. This raised bed allows people to garden at a more comfortable height.
Considerations for choosing what to plant

- How many people are in your family to feed from the garden?
- What vegetables are you or your family’s favorites?
- What are you going to do with the harvested produce?
- In addition to using your fresh harvested vegetables, do you plan to freeze, can, store or donate the extras?
- Were you going to participate in the Plant a Row for the Hungry Program, then donate to your local food bank?

Easy garden crops

Cool Season Crops will germinate in cooler soil temperatures and are hardy or frost tolerant. Warm season crops are tender and need warm temperatures to grow (some are very tender and will not grow at cool temperatures). Below are some easy to grow cool and warm season crops:

Easy Cool Season Crops:
Hardy (seeds germinate at soil temperatures of 35-40 degrees F)
- asparagus
- kale
- broccoli
- onion
- brussel sprouts
- peas
- cabbage
- spinach
- greens
- swiss chard

Half Hardy (will tolerate light frost/freezes) (seeds germinate at soil temperatures of 40-45 degrees F)
- beet
- carrot
- cauliflower
- lettuce
- potato

Easy Warm Season Crops: Tender (seeds germinate at soil temperatures of 50-55 degrees F)
- sweet corn
- snap beans
- tomato

Very Tender
Plant after the last danger of frost, Mother’s Day, approximately May 10 (seeds germinate at soil temperatures of 60 degrees F).
- get a head start on the season – start these plants indoors
- cantaloupe
- cucumber
- eggplant
- lima beans
- squash
- sweet potato
- pepper
- pumpkins
- watermelon

Other considerations for planting

Remember you can start a vegetable garden in the spring or fall.

- Warm season plants (tomatoes, peppers, melons, etc.) are planted about May 10.
- Cool season plants (collards, kale, cauliflower, cabbage, etc.) are planted in mid/late August.
- Ideally rows should run north and south, for maximum sun exposure on all plants.
- If your rows run east to west, place tall crops on the north side to ensure the taller, caged or trellised plants don’t shade shorter crops.

Consider a Vegetable Garden This Year is a publication of Delaware Cooperative Extension, a partnership between Delaware State University and the University of Delaware. For more information, contact Delaware Cooperative Extension at (302) 857-6426 or (302) 730-4000 (Kent County); (302) 831-8862 (New Castle), or (302) 856-2585/ext. 535 (Sussex County).

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