

# SUCCESSION PLANTING & CROP ROTATION



[melindamyers.com](http://melindamyers.com)



## START WITH A PLAN

- Grow what you like
- Grow what you need /prefer fresh
- Grow what you need / prefer preserved

## MAXIMIZE SPACE & INCREASE SUCCESS

- Big Results from Small Gardens
- Space Saving Vegetable Gardening
- Space Saving Vegetable Gardening Techniques
- Wide rows
  - Plant so there is just enough room for plants to reach full size
  - Make sure you can reach all the plants to weed, manage pests and harvest from surrounding pathways
- Go vertical
  - Trellis vining plants to save space and reduce disease
  - Sling large, heavy fruit to support and preserve them from falling off the vines
- Interplanting
  - Plant short season veggies in between long season veggies
    - ◆ Carrots with okra
    - ◆ Onions with cabbage
    - ◆ Radishes with cabbage and broccoli
    - ◆ Beets with tomatoes and peppers

## JUMP START THE SEASON

- Vegetable Gardens
- Extending the Growing Season
- Floating row covers
  - Capture heat around plants, protecting them from frost, but allow air, light and water through
- Cloches
  - Mini greenhouses for the garden

- Cold frames
  - Structures for starting seeds, protecting transplants and more
- Containers
  - Plant veggies in containers that can be moved outside
- Diversify plantings to reduce the risk of insects and disease
  - Don't plant related veggies, like cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower together
  - Instead, mix things up

## MANAGE THE HARVEST FOR PRODUCTIVITY & AESTHETICS - TIPS FOR GREATER PRODUCTIVITY

- Harvest when mature
  - Regular harvesting keeps plants producing
    - ◆ Cabbage
      - Remove just the head when mature, 4-5 smaller heads will form
    - ◆ Lettuce
      - Harvest outer leaves when 4-6" long - will keep producing
    - ◆ Broccoli
      - Harvest head and allow sprouts to form, harvest and use sprouts
    - ◆ Pole beans
      - Save space and add an extra harvest

## SUITABLE GROWING CONDITIONS

- Sunlight
  - Tomatoes, melons, broccoli and other veggies that you eat the flowers or fruit of need the most sunlight - 8 hours or more
  - Root crops, like beets, carrots and radishes prefer full sun, but tolerate partial shade

## Ebert's Greenhouse Village

When you visit Ebert's Greenhouse Village for the first time, you'll be charmed by our rustic ambiance and the beautiful surrounding countryside in Ixonia, Wisconsin. You'll meet our friendly and knowledgeable staff who share your passion for gardening and the rewarding, enjoyable life experience it provides!

Our selection of annual flowers and gorgeous hanging basket and container combinations are second to none - they are planted and cared for with your success and lasting enjoyment in mind. Our extensive collection of perennials, trees, shrubs and roses is one of the finest in Wisconsin, and our culinary herbs and vegetables can be planted with confidence! As our grounds continue to evolve, you'll see additions that will enhance your shopping experience with us. In our Gift Shoppe, we continue to build a delightful selection of indoor and outdoor home and landscape accents to inspire you to assemble an environment you will love spending time in all season long!

At Ebert's Greenhouse Village, "We Grow HAPPINESS!!"

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- Leafy vegetables, like lettuce and spinach, are the most shade tolerant
  - ◆ In fact, a bit of shade as temperatures rise helps extend the harvest season

## PROPER CARE

- Water
  - Most vegetables need an inch of water per week
  - Check soil moisture and water thoroughly when top few inches of soil are crumbly and slightly moist
    - ◆ Apply 1" in one application for heavy soils, if needed
    - ◆ Apply 1/2" every 4 days for sandy soils, if needed
  - ◆ **Consider a soaker hose or drip irrigation**
    - Applies water directly to the soil where it is needed
    - Easier for you - just turn on the faucet to water
  - Check containers daily and water thoroughly as needed
    - ◆ Irrigation, self-watering pots and watering devices extend time between watering
- **Mulch the soil** with organic matter, such as shredded leaves or evergreen needles
  - Conserve moisture so you'll water less
  - Suppress weeds, means fewer to pull
  - As mulch breaks down, it improves the soil
- Organic Insect Pest Management in Flower & Vegetable Gardens
  - **Watch webinar** - enter password L0zb=6\*K
  - **Download handout**

## CROP ROTATION

- Rotate plantings to reduce the risks of insects and disease
- Follow tomatoes with something unrelated, like onions, not with peppers that are related and susceptible to many of the same insects and diseases

## SUCCESSION PLANTING

- Plant then replant the space once the first planting is harvested
- **Calculate the number of frost free days**
- Know growing conditions and length of season of the vegetables
  - Check tags and seed packets for days from planting to harvest
  - Compare the number of frost-free days in your location
  - Contact local Extension Service for lists of veggies in your area
- Match plant requirements to seasonal temperatures
  - Cool season veggies, like peas, broccoli, radishes and beets, tolerate cool air and soil
  - Some, like broccoli, Brussels sprouts and their relatives, tolerate and even taste better after a light frost
  - **Soil Temperature Influences When to Plant**
  - **Scheduling Vegetable Plantings for Continuous Harvest**
    - Warm season vegetables, like tomatoes, peppers and melons, need warm soil and air
      - ◆ Wait for danger of frost to pass and soil to warm to plant these
  - **When to Plant Vegetable Seeds or Transplants**
  - **Time Vegetable Plantings for Greater Success**



### About Melinda

Nationally known gardening expert, TV/ radio host, author & columnist Melinda Myers has over 30 years of horticulture experience and has written over 20 gardening books, including Can't Miss Small Space Gardening, the recently revised Midwest Gardener's Handbook, and Jackson and Perkins' Beautiful Roses Made Easy. She hosts the nationally-syndicated "Melinda's Garden Moment" program airing on radio stations throughout the U.S. Melinda also hosts the internationally distributed Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD/ Instant Video series, including the latest Food Gardening for Everyone DVD set. She is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine, and writes a nationally-distributed gardening column. She appears regularly as a guest expert on national and local television and radio shows.

Visit Melinda's website,  
**[melindamyers.com](http://melindamyers.com)**

- Still Time to Plant, Late Additions to the Garden
- Relay Planting for a Bigger Harvest
- Grow a Beautiful Harvest All Season Long
- A few examples
  - Leaf lettuce (40 to 50 days) - beans (50 to 80) - salad radishes (30)
  - Peas (60) - tomatoes (80 days to frost) - interplant with beets
  - Salad radishes (30) - cucumbers (60) - broccoli (60+ days, will tolerate frost)

## FERTILIZATION

- Soil test
- Fertilize at start of the season with a slow-release fertilizer
- Fertilize between plantings, if needed

## A FEW VEGETABLES TO CONSIDER

### LETTUCE, SPINACH AND GREENS

- Plant early spring (mid to late April) through late season for fall harvest, most thrive in cooler temperatures
- Harvest outer leaves of leafy crops when 4-6", head (loose and firm)
- A few to try:
  - Lettuce
    - ♦ Leaf types - Oak Leaf, Simpson, Salad Bowl, Galactic, Freckles
    - ♦ Butterhead - Bibb, Summer Bibb, Buttercrunch, Little Gem
    - ♦ Romaine - Red Romaine
  - Other greens
    - ♦ Cresses - Upland, Curly
    - ♦ Endive and escarole, chicories - Lorca, Ruffec, Salad King, Cos Batavian (AAS)

- ♦ Chinese cabbage - Asian Delight (AAS, slow to bolt)
- ♦ Mache or corn salad - fist size rosette of leaves
- ♦ Radichio head-forming chicory - Chioggia (tangy to bitter flavor)
- ♦ Mustard - Red Kingdom Mizuna (AAS)
- ♦ Kale - Prizm (AAS), Lacinato (AAS), Redbor (AAS), Tuscan Baby Leaf
- ♦ Spinach - America (AAS), Bloomsdale Long Standing, New Zealand (more heat tolerant)
- ♦ Malabar Climbing Spinach - not a true spinach, more heat tolerant
- ♦ Swiss Chard - Bright Lights (AAS), Peppermint

- Thinning
  - Remove extra seedlings so plants are properly spaced and have room to reach mature size
    - ♦ Many are edible, like radishes, beets and even carrots (carrot pesto)
- Heat tolerant greens
  - Sandy and Red Sails lettuce
  - Malabar climbing spinach
    - ♦ Not a true spinach, more heat tolerant

### ROOT CROPS - CARROTS, BEETS AND RADISHES

- Plant mid to late April and throughout the season (planting and thinning tricks)
  - Pelletized seeds and seed tapes make planting smaller seeds easier
- Grow in containers, raised beds, in ground
  - Space 2-3"
- Harvest
  - Carrots - 60 to 70 days, roots are  $\frac{3}{4}$  - 1" in diameter, dig - don't pull, leave in ground for winter

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- **Beets** - 50 to 60 days, as greens 4-6", greens and beets 1-1.5" and roots only 1.5-3"
- **Radishes** - 25 to 30 days, when 1-1.5" in diameter
- A few to try:
  - Carrots - Shorts and Half Long, Purple Haze (AAS), Thumbelina (AAS)
  - Beets - Bull's Blood, Tall Top, Fresh Start, Candy Stripe, Golden, Avalanche (AAS, white)
  - Radishes - Watermelon, Easter Egg, Cherry Bell (AAS), French Breakfast, Sweet Baby (AAS)
- Interplant radishes with carrots
  - When radishes are ready to harvest, gives carrot room to mature
  - Overwinter in garden
    - ◆ Mulch soil when crunchy
    - ◆ Harvest during winter thaw

## PEAS

- Plant mid April or mid to late summer for fall harvest (need cooler temps)
- Harvest in 60 to 70 days
  - Edible pod - swollen / no seeds showing
  - Peas - pod bright, swollen, peas full-size
- **Garden Snow and Snap Peas**
- A few to try:
  - Peas - Mr. Big (AAS), Green Arrow, First 13
  - Snow peas - Mammoth Melting, Oregon Giant
  - Edible podded - Sugar Snap (AAS), Sugar Daddy, Sugar Ann (AAS), Patio Pride (AAS container), **Snak Hero** (AAS)
- Powdery mildew usually only a problem as temperatures and humidity rise
  - Plant for early summer and fall harvests

## POTATOES

- Plant seeds (tuber divisions) in mid to late April
- Grow in rows and hills in ground, raised beds or containers
  - Space 12" apart
- Harvest in 80 to 140 days - new potatoes any size, storing tuber full size, tops dry
- A few to try:
  - **Clancy** (AAS) - from seed, not tubers, red to rose blush tubers
  - Early types - Norgold Russet, Norland, Superior
  - Late - Katahdin, Kennebec

## ONIONS

- Plant seeds indoors in late February
  - Move transplants into the garden in early May
- Plant sets in mid April, transplants May through summer
- Harvest sets for green onions when 6-8" tall
  - Storage onions best from plants, harvest when tops fall
- **Selecting onion varieties**
- Long day (15-16 hours of daylight) Northern areas
- Day-neutral / intermediate varieties (12-14 hours) suited to Zones 5 and 6 and perhaps a larger area
- Short day (12 hours of daylight) for Southern areas
- A few to try - Benny's, Southport Red, Yellow Spanish, White Sweet Spanish, Walla Walla Sweet, Super Star Sweet (AAS), Warrior (AAS, green or bunching)

## **CABBAGE, BROCCOLI, CAULIFLOWER, BRUSSELS SPROUTS**

- Plant early May, **protect plants from frost** and mid season for fall harvest
- Harvest
  - **Cabbage** - when head is full size and firm - cut, leaving lower leaves for additional heads
  - **Broccoli** - when flowerhead is full size, before buds open, leave stem for re-sprouting
  - **Cauliflower** - blanch when head is size of quarter - ready in 5 to 7 days

- **Brussels sprouts** - harvest when sprouts are firm and 1" in diameter
- A few to try:
  - Cabbage - AAS Winners - Katarina (container), Savoy Express, Savoy King, Red Ball
  - Broccoli - Crosier, Comet (AAS), Green Goliath, Artwork (AAS - stem type)
  - Cauliflower - Snow Crown (AAS), Snow King (AAS), Violet Queen, Green Goddess Hybrid
  - Brussels sprouts - Hestia (AAS), Redarling, Long Island, Silvia & Franklin 70-80 days to maturity
- **Eco-friendly Control of Cabbage Worms**
  - Cover with floating row cover to prevent egg laying
  - *Btk* organic insecticide that only kills true caterpillars

## BEANS

- Plant in mid May - several weeks before tomato and eggplants - through early August
- Grow in ground, raised beds or containers
- Harvest in 50 to 80 days
  - Snap - before seeds swell and show
  - Dry - outer shell dry
- A few to try:
  - **Bush** - Blue Lake, Contender, Kentucky Blue Wonder (AAS), Tendercrop, Mascotte (AAS container)
  - Bush yellow - Cherokee Wax (AAS), Slender Wax
  - **Pole** - Scarlet Runner, Seychelles, Rattlesnake Pole, Purple Podded, Yardlong
  - Lima - Burpee Improved Bush, Fordhook 242 (AAS), Baby Fordhook
- **Eco-friendly Control of Bean Beetles**
  - Clean up in fall
  - Cover with floating row cover - beans do not need bees for pollination
- **Seed corn maggot**
  - Replant damaged rows

- Wait for soil to warm for planting

## CUCUMBER

- Plant in late May when the air and soil are warm
- Grow sprawled on ground in rows or hills, trained on support or in container
- First flush of flowers are male
  - Second flush contains both male and female flowers for pollination to occur and fruit can form
- Harvest
  - Sweet pickles 1.5 to 2.5"
  - Dills 3-4"
  - Slicing 6-9", skin bright green
  - Burpless 10-12"
- A few to try:
  - Pickles - Bush Pickle, Carolina, Parisian Gherkin (AAS)
  - Long slicers - Burpless, Marketmore 76, Straight 8 (AAS)
  - Long slicers (compact) - Bush Crop, Fanfare, Pick a Bushel (AAS), Salad Bush (AAS), Green Light (AAS)
- **Lots of Flowers, But No Fruit on Cucumbers, Squash and Melons**
- **Cucumber Beetles and Bacterial Wilt**

## SQUASH AND MELONS

- Plant when the air and soil are warm, additional plantings through mid summer
- Grow sprawled on ground in rows or hills, **trained on support or in container, sling large fruit**
- First flush of flowers are male
  - Second flush contains both male and female flowers for pollination to occur and fruit can form
- Harvest
  - **Summer Squash** - when fruit are 6-10" long or 3-6" in diameter
  - **Winter Squash** - when full size, rind is hard, portion touching the ground is cream or orange
  - **Melons** - 65 to 90 days, fruit full size, rind is dull, ground spot cream, tendrils dry and curled

- A few to try:
  - Summer squash AAS winners - Black Beauty, Bossa Nova, Gold Rush, Fordhook, Papaya Pear, Sunburst, Butterstick (yellow), Eight Ball (round), Astia (container), Butter Blossom (flowers)
  - Winter squash - Cream of the Crop (AAS), Table Queen (AAS), Table King (AAS), Bush Delicata (AAS), Sweet Dumpling, Vegetable Spaghetti, Early Butterbush, Butternut (AAS), Buttercup, Mooregold, Sweet Mama (AAS)
  - Muskmelons - Bush Star (compact), Earli Sweet, Superstar, Orange SilverWave (AAS)
  - Honeydews - Earli Dew, Honey Brew, Morning Ice, Venus
  - Watermelon
    - ◆ Early - Sugar Baby, Yellow Baby (AAS), Cal Sweet Bush (AAS, very compact)
    - ◆ Main - Mini Love (compact, small fruit), Moon and Stars, Sweet Beauty (AAS, small fruit), Sweet Favorite (AAS)
    - ◆ Seedless - Cotton Candy, Queen of Hearts
- Harvesting and Storing Pumpkins
- Preventing Squash Vine Borer Damage
- Squash Bugs
- Protect Pumpkins, Squash and Melons From Rot

## TOMATO

- Choose the Best Tomato for Your Favorite Recipes
- How to Grow Your Best Tomato
- Start seeds indoors in early April
- Move transplants into the garden in late May to early June when soil and air are warm
  - Or jump start the season
- Trench tomatoes only
  - Trench tall, leggy plants to encourage rooting
- Grow sprawled, staked, towered, hanging, in a 3- to 5-gallon container, hanging basket
  - Space 24-36"
- Determinate - grows to certain height and stops - good for containers

- Indeterminate - grows, flowers and fruits until frost kills
  - Pinch tips late season to speed ripening of existing fruit
- Growing Tomatoes
- Hot and Cold Weather Tomatoes
- Planting Tomatoes
- Tomato Growing Tips
- A few AAS Winners to try:
  - Patio Choice Yellow - cherry tomato
  - Apple Yellow
  - Early Resilience - Roma
  - Galahad - slicer, late blight resistance
- Tomato troubles
- Septoria leaf spot
- Early Blight
- Late Blight

## PEPPER

- Start seeds indoors in early April
- Move transplants into the garden in late May to early June when soil and air are warm
  - Or jump start the season
- Plant at same depth as growing in container
- Grow in ground or in a 2- to 3-gallon container
  - Space 18" apart
- Sweet, hot or ornamental
- Harvest in 60 to 70 days - fruit is firm and fully colored
- A few to try:
  - Sweet - Bell Boy (AAS), Lady Bell, Just Sweet, Lunchbox, Sweetie Pie (AAS, smaller bell), Giant Marconi (raw or grilling), Gypsy (AAS), Sweet Banana
  - Hot - Cayenne, Jalapeño, MaxiBell (AAS), Mad Hatter (AAS)
  - Other - Shishito (occasional hot one, char-grilled or pan seared), Roulette (AAS) and Habanetta, resembles habanero with no heat

## EGGPLANT

- Start seeds indoors in early April
- Move transplants into the garden in late May to early June when soil and air are warm
  - Or jump start the season
- Plant at same depth as growing in container
- Grow in ground or in a 2- to 3-gallon container
  - Space 18" apart
- Harvest in 70 to 80 days - fruit is full size, glossy before skin dulls, leaves thumb print
- A few to try:
  - Black Beauty, Ichiban, Casper (white)
  - AAS Winners Hansel, Gretel, Fairy Tale, Patio, Icicle

## GARLIC

- Hardneck - better in north, large bulbs and complex flavors
- Softnecks best where summers are hot and winters are mild
  - Productive and store well
- Plant in fall after frost or early spring
  - Set cloves 2" deep and 4-6" apart
- Winter mulch in north to prevent frost heaving
- Harvesting garlic scapes
- Harvesting garlic bulbs
  - Carefully dig when  $\frac{1}{3}$  and less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  leaves turn brown
  - Cure for 3-4 weeks in warm, ventilated location
  - Remove soil, long roots and only outermost damaged papery skin
  - Store in cool, moderately humid location for up to 8 months

**Contact Diggers Hotline or your local underground utility locating service BEFORE you start digging - It's a FREE service**

In Wisconsin file online at [diggershotline.com](http://diggershotline.com) or anywhere in the U.S., including Wisconsin, call 811 at least 3 business days before putting the first shovel in the ground. Once your request is received, Diggers Hotline (or your local locating service) contacts all the appropriate underground utilities. The utility's locators will mark the location of the underground utilities in the work area. Avoid digging near the marks to reduce the risk of damage, personal injury or even death.





## **UPCOMING APPEARANCES & WEBINARS**

*Check often as more appearances and webinars continue to be added.*

**March 21<sup>st</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>**

REALTORS Home & Garden Show

**Webinar March 27<sup>th</sup>**

*Rain Garden Q&A*

**Webinar April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

*Container Gardens for Sun and Shade*

**Webinar April 10<sup>th</sup>**

*Reinvigorate Your Rain Garden*

**April 12<sup>th</sup>**

*Pasquesi Home & Gardens*

**April 26<sup>th</sup>**

*Ebert's Greenhouse Village*

**May 3<sup>rd</sup>**

*Gardening Talk @ North Lake School*

**Webinar May 7<sup>th</sup>**

*Vertical Gardening*

**May 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>**

*Ebert's Greenhouse Village*

**Webinar May 15<sup>th</sup>**

*7 Steps to Managing Water on Your Property*

**Webinar June 4<sup>th</sup>**

*Attracting Hummingbirds*

**June 8<sup>th</sup>**

*Ebert's Greenhouse Village*



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