

PLANNING THE GARDEN

START WITH A PLAN FOR A BOUNTIFUL HARVEST, SUCCESS AND FUN SELECT THE VEGETABLES TO GROW

- Cost-effective
 - Greens, tomatoes and peppers verses corn
 - Corn needs lots of space
 - Most varieties of corn produce one ear per plant
 - So if space is limited, consider buying at the farmer's market
- You and your family like to eat
 - Grow Your Favorite Recipe
- Grow more if you plan to preserve some of the harvest
 - Or buy extras at farmer's market so you have what you need when you have time to preserve
- Long-keepers, like onions, potatoes, squash
 - AAS Winner Honeybaby winter squash
 - Compact, vigorous and productive
- Fun
 - AAS Winner Purple Haze carrot
 - Artichokes
- Hardy
 - When growing perennial herbs, vegetables and fruit, make sure they are hardy to the average minimal winter temperatures
 - ► Check the USDA Cold Hardiness Map for your hardiness zone
- Will mature in the average number of frost-free days (length of your growing season)
 - Check tags and seed packets for days from planting to harvest
 - Compare the number of <u>frost-free days</u> in your location
- Match plant requirements to seasonal temperatures
 - Cool season vegetables, 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
 - 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

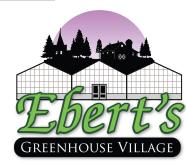
Ebert's Greenhouse Village

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!!"

Learn More



SELECT THE LOCATION

- Convenient for planting, tending and harvest
- Easy access to water, tools and all you need to grow your garden
- Look for underutilized spaces to grow vegetables
- Make it attractive
 - Attractive vegetable cultivars
 - Mix veggies in with flowers and other ornamental plantings
- Even in the front yard
 - O Dress it up a bit to keep peace in the neighborhood
 - Parliament Building in Quebec Front Yard Garden

Avoid Underground Utilities

• Call 811 (anywhere in the country). Those in Wisconsin can also file online at <u>DiggersHotline.com</u> 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.

Suitable Growing Conditions

- Sunlight
 - Tomatoes, melons, broccoli and other veggies 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
 - 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

o Soil

Create Healthy Soil

- Most gardeners start with less-than-ideal soil
- Vegetables thrive in moist, well-drained soil
- ▶ Test soil

Improve Your Garden with Soil Testing

- Results tell you what, if any, fertilizer or amendments are needed
- Check soil moisture before working the soil

Soil Preparation

• Grab a handful and gently squeeze



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 Midwest Gardener's Handbook, and Jackson and Perkins' Beautiful Roses Made Easy. She hosts the nationally-syndicated "Melinda's Garden Moment" program airing on over 115 TV and radio stations throughout the U.S. Melinda also hosts the internationally distributed Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series, including the latest Food Gardening for Everyone DVD set. She is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine, writes the twice monthly "Gardeners' Questions" newspaper column and a nationallydistributed gardening column. She appears regularly as a guest expert on national and local television and radio shows.

Visit Melinda's website, melindamyers.com

- ◆ If it breaks apart, you can get started
- ◆ If it stays in a clump, wait a few days to get started
- Working wet soil ruins its structure, resulting in:
 - ◆ Clods that last all season
 - Crusting and cracking of soil surface
- <u>Amend existing soil</u> by incorporating several inches of compost or organic matter into the top 8 to 12" of soil
 - Improves drainage in heavy soil
 - Increases water holding ability in sandy soils
 - Incorporate low nitrogen, slow-release fertilizer (like Milorganite) at the same time and midseason, if needed
 - Midseason Fertilization for Vegetable Gardens
 - Fertilizing Vegetables with Milorganite

Lasagna Gardening

- Make your own soil with lasagna method
- ▶ Raised Beds
 - Bring in quality planting mix or fill with lasagna method
- **▶ Straw Bale**
 - Raised bed, planting mix and container in one bale
- Elevated Gardens
 - Just a container with legs
 - Salad Bar from Gardener's Supply Company
 - Accessible Elevated Garden at Chicago Botanic Garden Enabling Gardens
- Containers
 - Convenient for grilling
 - Tea
 - Cooking and entertaining
 - Edible Ornamental Container Gardens
 - Expand Your Garden Space and Planting Options with Container Gardens
 - Watering Saving Tips for Container Gardens
 - Fertilize containers and elevated gardens
 - ◆ At planting and midseason with low nitrogen, slow-release fertilizer like Milorganite
 - ◆ Or regularly throughout the season per the fast-release fertilizer's label directions

UPCOMING WEBINARS

Check often as more information and webinars continue to be added.

March 24th

Selecting Rain Garden Plants

April 15th

Helpful Ideas for New Plant Parents

April 21st

Be a Part of the Solution -Plant a Landscape that Makes a Difference

May 12th

Water Gardening

May 13th

Planting Your Rain Garden

June 3rd

Container Gardening for Small Spaces

June 9th

Sustainable Lawn and Landscape Care

June 10th

Gardening During the Summer Months

- Other options
 - Hugelkultur
 - Improve soil, compost and rotate in one garden

MAXIMIZE SPACE AND INCREASE SUCCESS

Big Results from Small Gardens Space Saving Vegetable Gardening Tips Space Saving Vegetable Garden Techniques

- Diversify plantings to reduce risk of insects and disease
 - Don't plant related veggies, like cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower, together
 - ▶ Instead, mix things up
- Rotate plantings to reduce the risk 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

• 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)
- Wide rows
 - o 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 prevent 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
- Succession (relay) planting
 - Replant the space once the vegetable is harvested
 - ▶ Still Time to Plant, Late Additions to the Garden
 - Relay Planting for a Bigger Harvest
 - Grow a Bountiful Harvest All Season Long

Late planting

Manage the Harvest for Productivity and Aesthetics

- Harvesting 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

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Get the chance to win a seasonal prize!

JUMP START THE SEASON OR EXTEND THE HARVEST SEASON

- Vegetable Gardens
- Extending the Growing Season
- Floating row covers
 - Capture heat around plants, protecting them from frost, but allowing 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 when the weather is warm and back into a sheltered location when cooler than preferred temperatures and frost is in the forecast

BASIC 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 soaker hoses or drip irrigation
 - Applies water directly to the soil where it is needed
 - Easier for you turn on the faucet to water
 - Check containers daily and water thoroughly as needed
 - Irrigation, self-watering pot 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

• Safe pest management

- Let nature manage the pests
- Sanitation
- Pluck, drop and stomp insect management that kids love
- Barriers
 - Floating row covers
 - Fences for wildlife
- Traps
 - Yellow bowl with soapy water
 - ▶ Foil mulches
 - Sticky traps (bird concern)
 - ▶ Vacuum

Natural products and repellents

- Insecticidal soap
- ▶ Horticulture oil
- Cayenne pepper
- Neem (broad spectrum)
- Spinosad (bee concern)
- Read and follow label directions

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER IN A PLAN

- Pre-planned gardens
 - Gardener's Supply Company and other online sources
- Keep tools and supplies handy and easy transport



A Few Tips for the More Popular Veggies Perennial Vegetables

RHUBARB

- Hardy in Zones 3 to 8
- Full sun
- Well-drained soil
- Plant mid-April
 - Crown bud 2" below soil surface
 - o Plants 3' apart
- Harvest second year for 1 to 2 weeks
 - Harvest 8 to 10 weeks in subsequent years
- A few to try:
 - o Canada Red
 - Valentine

ASPARAGUS

- Hardy in Zones 2 to 8
- Full sun
- Well-drained soil

- Plant roots in early spring
 - o 6" deep
 - o 9-12" apart
- <u>Harvest</u> for one month, third year after planting crowns
 - Harvest 8 to 10 weeks in spring in subsequent years
- A few to try:
 - Male varieties
 - Jersey Giant
 - Jersey Night
 - ▶ Viking
 - Old time favorites
 - Martha and Mary Washington
 - Purple (Purple Passion)
- Maintain greenery throughout the season
 - Leave it intact for winter
 - Increases hardiness
 - Remove if asparagus beetles are a problem

ANNUAL VEGETABLES

Many mentioned are <u>All-America Selections Winners</u> (AAS). These non-GMO winning varieties have been tested nationally, proven locally, and selected for their flavor, beauty, and performance in home gardens.

Planting dates - earliest recommended, but use weather conditions as your guide

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
 - o 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

PEAS

- Plant mid April or mid to late summer for fall harvest (need cooler temps)
- Harvest in 60 to 70 days
 - o Edible pod swollen / no seeds showing
 - o Peas pod bright, swollen, peas full-size
- Garden Snow and Snap Peas
- A few to try:
 - o Peas Mr. Big (AAS), Green Arrow, First 13
 - o Snow peas Mammoth Melting, Oregon Giant
 - o 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

ROOT CROPS - CARROTS, BEETS, 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
 - o Space 2-3"
- Harvest
 - o Carrots 60 to 70 days, roots are 3/4 1" in diameter, dig don't pull, leave in ground for winter
 - Beets 50 to 60 days, as greens 4-6", greens and beets 1-1.5" and roots only 1.5-3"
 - o Radishes 25 to 30 days, when 1-1.5" in diameter
- A few to try:
 - o Carrots Shorts and Half Long, Purple Haze (AAS), Thumbelina (AAS)
 - o 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

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
 - o Storage onions best from plants, harvest when tops fall
- Long and day-neutral varieties suited to our area
- 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)

GARLIC

- Plant cloves in fall (mulch for winter) or late April to early May
- Grow in ground in a protected spot
 - Space 3"
- Harvest when tops dry or before first frost, scapes are edible
- A few to try Hard neck types like Rocamole, Purple Stripe and Porccelains tolerate our weather best

POTATO

- 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:
 - o <u>Clancy</u> (AAS) from seed, not tubers, red to rose blush tubers
 - Early types Norgold Russet, Norland, Superior
 - Late Katahdin, Kennebec

CABBAGE, BROCCOLI, CAULIFLOWER, BRUSSELS SPROUTS

- Plant early May, <u>protect plants from frost</u> and mid season for fall harvest
- Harvest
 - o <u>Cabbage</u> when head is full size and firm cut, leaving lower leaves for additional heads
 - o Broccoli when flowerhead is full size, before buds open, leave stem for re-sprouting
 - o Cauliflower blanch when head is size of quarter ready in 5 to 7 days
 - ▶ Blanching Cauliflower and Celery
 - o Brussels sprouts harvest when sprouts are firm and 1" in diameter
- A few to try:
 - O Cabbage AAS Winners Katarina (container), Savoy Express, Savoy King, Red Ball
 - o Broccoli Crosier, Comet (AAS), Green Goliath, Artwork (AAS stem type)
 - Cauliflower Snow Crown (AAS), Snow King (AAS), Violet Queen, Green Goddess Hybrid
 - O Brussels sprouts Hestia (AAS), Redarling, Long Island
- 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
 - O 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
 - o Pole Scarlet Runner, 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"
 - o Dills 3-4"
 - Slicing 6-9", skin bright green
 - o Burpless 10-12"
- A few to try:
 - O 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

Томато

- 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
 - o 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

PEPPER

- Start seeds indoors in early April
- Move transplants into the garden in late May to early June when soil and air are warm
 - o 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, 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:
 - O Black Beauty, Ichiban, Casper (white)
 - AAS Winners Hansel, Gretel, Fairy Tale and Patio

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
 - o <u>Summer Squash</u> 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
 - o 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
- Protect Pumpkins, Squash and Melons From Rot

A FEW HERBS

BASIL - Amazel Basil and Red Rubin are more mildew resistant, Siam Queen (AAS), Magical Michael (AAS)

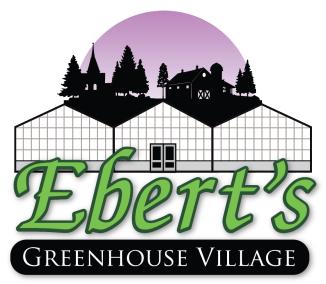
CHIVES - leaves and flowers edible, spreads, Geisha Garlic Chives (AAS)

<u>CILANTRO</u> - bolts in hot weather, allow to set seed and harvest for coriander or allow to reseed for additional plantings, Delfino (AAS) is slow to bolt

DILL and **FENNEL** - nice texture, swallowtail caterpillar favorite, reseeds readily



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