



# Garden Guide and Orientation

## **AACG Operation Guidelines and Rules**

1. All Gardeners shall be treated with respect and courtesy.
2. Gardeners are required to control pest grasses and weeds and harvest produce in a timely manner. A garden plot is considered abandoned after two weeks without maintenance. Extended vacations should be discussed with Garden Coordinator, or arrangements otherwise made for care of plot.
3. As a community garden, the emphasis is on the word community and all Gardeners are expected to assist and contribute to common upkeep, maintenance and improvement.
4. All Gardeners are expected to contribute two hours per month of work on the common grounds, as coordinated by the Garden Coordinator. Multi-hour work days can count toward several months of contributions. Gardeners who share plots with spouses, groups, etc. can assign any member of their party to meet the common work requirement. Examples of common work are:
  - a. Membership in the Steering Committee or Fundraising Committee
  - b. Compost Committee
  - c. Landscaping and planting in the common areas
  - d. Maintenance, construction and/or painting of structures, raised beds, etc.
  - e. Special projects as needed
5. Smoking and chewing tobacco is prohibited. Tobacco carries the mosaic virus which is deadly to some plants.
6. Dogs are not allowed in the garden due to health concerns.
7. Any common tools used must be cleaned and returned to storage. If tools are damaged or lost due to neglect, the Gardener shall be responsible for cost of replacement or repair.
8. Gardener is strongly encouraged to use organic plants and seeds, and may only use organic pest control and fertilizers. No GMO or treated seeds are permitted. If you are unsure about your plants, seeds, fertilizers or pesticides, ask the Garden Coordinator for approval.
9. No invasive species may be planted. Please ask if you are uncertain.
10. Gardeners agree to pay annual Dues, for purposes of water and other recurring costs, of \$30 per year for a 4' x 12' plot and \$60 per year for a 10' x 10' plot. This amount varies year to year, as approved by a vote, but is due before a plot can be cultivated. Note: these prices are for 2016.
11. Gardener's Plot cannot be transferred to another person. All unplanted plots must return to the Association to be assigned to the next person on the list. However, Gardeners shall be allowed to exchange plots if mutually agreeable.
12. Plots must be kept clear of pests and free of disease. If damaging insects or blights are discovered, they MUST be reported to the Garden Coordinator

immediately. If infestations pose a threat to neighboring plots or the garden in general and lesser treatments fail, plants may need to be removed or destroyed.  
**DO NOT COMPOST DISEASED PLANTS!**

13. Trees or tree-like plants that can cast shade are not allowed except in specially designated plots or areas. Tree planting must be approved by Garden Coordinator, after a vote of the steering committee.
14. Gardener agrees that he shall abide by majority votes of the Association, and shall endeavor to participate in votes and meetings to the best of his or her abilities. Furthermore, Gardener understands that he represents all parties of his plot in his vote, and receives only one vote regardless of the number of plots he tends.
15. Gardener agrees to hold harmless the Association and its officers for any injuries or losses incurred on the site. Gardener understands that there may be bees and other insects as well as tools that may cause injury and accepts these risks. Moreover, the Association is not responsible for any personal property lost, stolen or damaged on the site unless a specific written agreement to that effect exists.
16. Parking is permitted on Adelphi Lane and Get Me Ready Daycare. Do not park on Amherst. You may park at nearby businesses at your own risk.
17. The gate to the garden will be locked when a workday is not in progress. Keys will be in a lockbox for which you will be provided a code. For your own security we ask that you lock the gate behind you. Anyone else who asks to come in needs to know the combination or should not be on the grounds. You may bring up to seven guests with you.
18. You must sign out any tools you take from the tool shed, and sign them back in when you are done. Do not leave any of your personal tools in the shed.

## Garden Maintenance Information and Reminders

### ***Weeding & Maintaining the Pathways***

In an effort to keep weeds under control and maintain a neat garden, all gardeners are now responsible for maintaining the two foot area surrounding their plots. Please pull weeds, mulch, and remove any trash from this area. Mulch should be at least 3" thick with a layer of cardboard underneath.

### ***Mulching***

Please mulch your beds! City of Austin Property Management Requirements states: "To build and maintain healthy soil structure, gardeners will use compost, organic fertilizers, mulch, and a rotation of plant varieties. Three inches of compost shall be maintained to prevent soil loss and compaction." You can use compost, some of the wood mulch on property, or another mulch of your choice.

### ***Deep Rooted Plants***

As stated in the rules and bylaws, trees and invasives are prohibited in plots. Keep in mind that you must be able to remove anything you plant when you leave. Small bushes and succulents may develop very deep roots that will make the plant difficult to remove. We advise against planting these types of plants for that reason.

### ***Modifying Plots***

While we encourage creative expression in your plot, please do not alter it in any way that can not be easily returned to its previous state. This includes drilling into the wood, painting, and attaching structures that can not easily be removed.

### ***Fertilizing***

If your plant leaves are turning yellow or your transplants need a boost, you need to add nitrogen to your soil. Some great ways to accomplish this is to mulch with coffee grounds or add fish emulsion.

From: <http://adelphiacre.org/gardeninfo/garden-maintenance/>  
Visit this site for helpful links and more information

## **AACG SAFETY AND SECURITY**

The garden is open from 5AM – 10PM.; anyone found in the garden before or after these times may be questioned by the police.

The primary gates for entry and exit are the large and small gates located at the corners of Adelphi and Amherst. Each gate is equipped with a padlocked chain and a lockbox containing the key to open the padlock. **The combination code for the lockbox is 3709. This code is confidential and should only be shared with those persons who are sub-holders for your plot.** We are requesting that gardeners return the key to the lockbox immediately after opening the padlock so the key does not go missing and please scramble the combination so that it is not exposed. For your own comfort, gardeners may feel free to lock the gates behind them after entering the garden but are still required to place the key back into the lockbox and not take it with them.

Note that the gates near Gable and Amherst will be kept locked at all times except during special events and designated workdays.

A key to the community tool shed is attached to a chain next to the shed door. This key is not to be removed. The shed should remain locked during non garden hours. All children under 12 must be under adult supervision at all times and are not allowed in the tool shed.

## **TOOL SHED SIGN AND RULES**

All tools in the shed are considered "community property" and may be checked out for use in members plots. (Please do not remove the tools to use at home.)

How do I sign out a tool?

1. Look for the blue binder with the sign-out sheets.
2. Sign out any tools you want to use.
3. When you are finished with the tool, please clean it off (by rinsing or wiping off) and return to the proper place.
4. Sign tools back in.

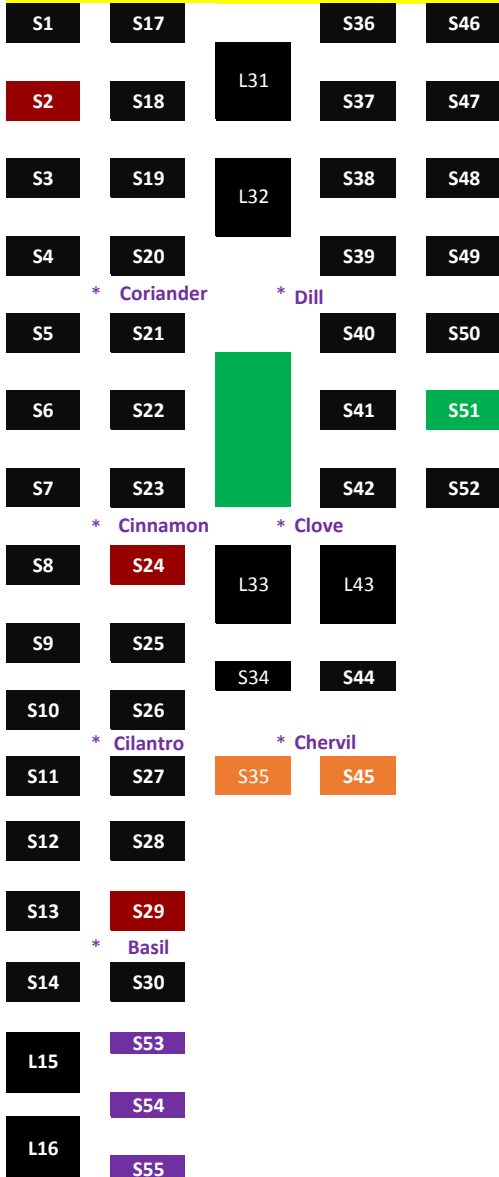
**\*\*If a tool has damage, needs repair, or breaks, please make a note on the sign out sheet and place the tool in the "REPAIR" tub inside the shed.**

# COMMUNITY AREA

## ADELPHI ZONE



## AMHERST ZONE



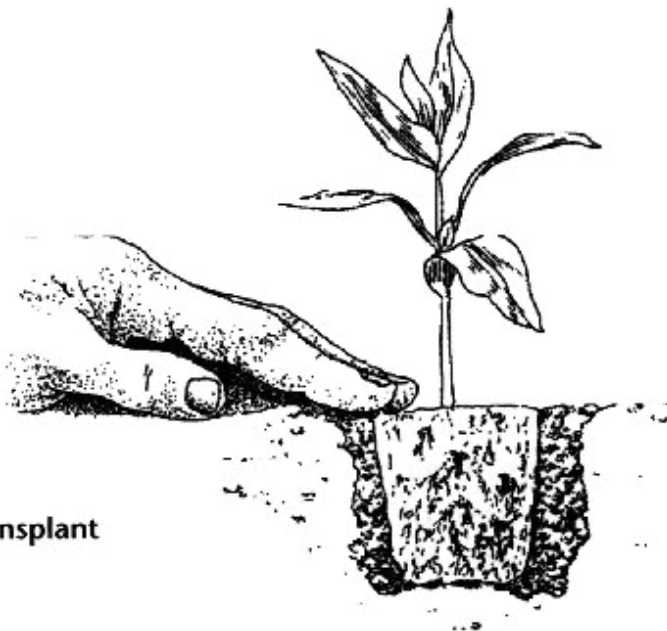
# Transplanting Small Plants

To transplant successfully, handle plants with care and minimize disturbance of plant roots.

- \* Choose an overcast and/or cool day
- \* Water plants
- \* Dig holes
- \* Water holes
- \* To avoid damaging their roots, loosen the plants by gently pressing against their pots.
- \* Push plants out of their containers from the bottom rather than pulling them out by their stems. In most cases, you can place one hand over the container with the main stem between your fingers, tip it over and shake or tap to loosen the root ball. If necessary, pry roots loose using a knife.



- \* Keep as much soil packed around the root ball as possible.



- \* Gently loosen bound roots.
- \* Place plants in the ground, ensuring that the base of their stem is flush with the top of the soil.
- \* Mulch
- \* Water in
- \* Water regularly until plants have "taken," i.e. when you see new growth, then begin watering less frequently.

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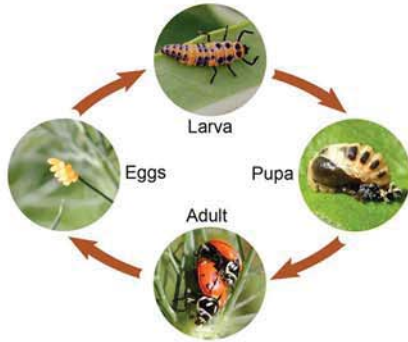
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## GOOD BUGS

Ladybugs eat aphids ->



...so do lacewings



## BAD BUGS

Aphids infest lots of edible plants



Don't confuse these  
**GOOD CATERPILLARS**

Painted Lady butterfly caterpillars



Monarch caterpillars  
(they like butterfly weed)



Swallowtail caterpillars  
(they like dill, fennel and rue)



...with these far more destructive  
**BAD CATERPILLARS**

cutworms  
(they like everything, esp. seedlings)



cabbage loopers  
(they like brassicas, kale, beets)



Tomato hornworms  
(they like peppers and tomatoes  
and hate borage)



## THE DREADED SQUASH VINE BORER

If your squash or zucchini vines look like this



...you have squash vine borers.



Look for red eggs, and look online for info.



## MORE TOMATO VILLIANS:

Leaf-footed bugs (juvenile and adult) and stink bugs. Time to break out the shop vac.



## Harlequin bugs



A huge tomato hornworm and the huge moth it becomes.



## Organic Pest and Disease Control

Sabrina and Vita attended a panel on organic pest control methods at the Coalition for Austin Community Gardens. Visit <http://communitygardensaustin.org/?p=1298> for notes from the panel, which include some great ideas on how to plan for and control some of the most common central Texas pests. Some resources for identifying pests are <http://bugguide.net/> and the [Travis County Master Gardener's help desk: http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/travis/master-gardeners/master-gardener-help-desk-at-the-travis-county-agrilife-extension/](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/travis/master-gardeners/master-gardener-help-desk-at-the-travis-county-agrilife-extension/)

### Baking Soda

Mixed at the rate of 4 teaspoons per gallon of water, baking soda makes an excellent fungicide for black spot, powdery mildew, brown patch, and other fungal problems. Add 1 teaspoon of liquid soap or vegetable oil to the mix. Potassium bicarbonate is also effective and better for the soil.

### Bug Juice Spray

Slugs and pill bugs can be controlled using a spray made from the bodies of the pest species. To control pill bugs, mix 1 ounce of ground pill bugs with 2 ounces of water to make a paste and then dilute 1 ounce of the bug concentrate in 1 gallon of water spray a heavy amount of the bug juice on problem areas. This same technique works for slugs, squash bugs, cucumber beetles, and other hard-to-kill insect pests such as Mexican bean beetles, armyworms, stink bugs, and cutworms. Always use the juice from the bug you want to control.

### Citrus Oil Spray

Fill a container ½ full with citrus peelings or pulp. Orange is best. Fill the remainder of the container with water. Let it sit in a cool place for a week or so. Strain. Use 1 cup of the homemade concentrate per gallon of spray. Note: Commercial orange oil is more powerful than homemade orange oil and can burn plants. We recommend using it at a rate of less than 2 ounces per gallon of water as a spray and always mixing it with molasses and compost tea.

### Compost Tea

Compost tea is effective on many pests because of certain naturally occurring microorganisms. Fill a bucket or barrel half full of compost and finish filling with water. Let the mixture sit for 10-14 days, then dilute, and spray on the foliage of any and all plants including fruit trees, perennials, annuals, vegetables, roses, and other plants that are regularly attacked by insect and disease pests. How much to dilute the dark compost tea before using depends on the compost used. A rule of thumb is to dilute the leachate down to 1 part compost liquid to 4 to 10 parts water. It should look like iced tea. Be sure to strain the solids out with old pantyhose, cheese cloth, or row cover material. Full-strength tea makes an excellent fire ant mound drench when mixed with molasses and citrus oil.

### Diatomaceous Earth

Diatomaceous earth (DE) is a powder made from fossilized prehistoric crustaceans called diatoms. The sharp edges of DE cut into insects' bodies, causing them to die of dehydration. Lightly sprinkle dry DE on the soil's surface where slugs, newly emerged Japanese beetles, or other unwanted pests will come into direct contact with the dry particles. Renew after rain or heavy dew.

**Note:** Keep insecticides, even the mild organic choices, away from children and pets, and don't breathe the dust of any dusty product.

**Source:** Howard Garrett and Malcolm Beck, *Texas Organic Vegetable Gardening* (1999).

# Organic Pest and Disease Control: Part II

Additional methods for controlling diseases and pests include:



- \* To reduce fungal infections, don't overhead water during the day, don't over water, and don't crowd your plants
- \* To attract beneficial insects, plant flowers (such as marigolds and calendula), and let some of your vegetable plants flower and seed
- \* Check the underside of leaves for insect eggs and larvae
- \* Companion planting
- \* Crop rotation
- \* Grow the right plants during the right seasons
- \* Don't kill good bugs
- \* Build your soil

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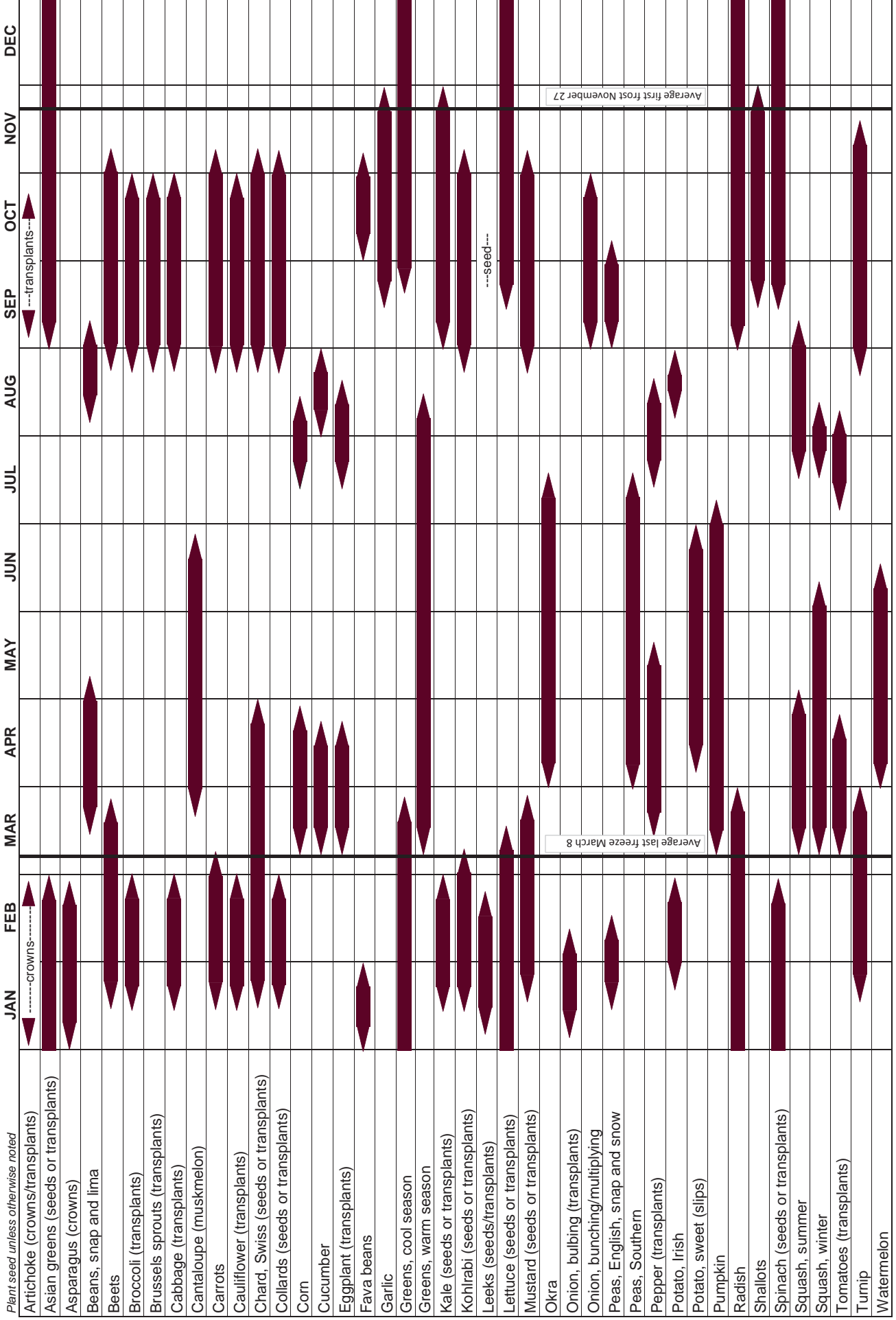
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Daphne Richards, County Extension Agent - Horticulture  
 Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Travis County, 1600-B Smith Road, Austin, TX 78721 512-854-9600  
 travismg@ag.tamu.edu  
 Compiled by Patty G Leander, Master Gardener Vegetable Specialist



Daphne Richards, County Extension Agent-Horticulture

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travismg@ag.tamu.edu

# Vegetable Varieties for Travis County

by Skip Richter, Travis County Extension Director and Patty Leander, Master Gardener

ARTICHOKE	Days to Harvest	BRUSSELS SPROUTS	Days to Harvest	CUCUMBER	Days to Harvest
Green Globe	>150	Jade Cross	85	<i>Pickling</i>	
Imperial Star	>100	Long Island Improved	90	Calypso	52
		Diablo	110	Carolina	49
<b>ASPARAGUS</b>		<b>CABBAGE</b>		Cool Breeze	45
UC 157	3 years	Early Jersey Wakefield	62	Eureka	56
UC 72	3 years	Golden Acre	64	Homemade Pickles	55
Jersey Giant	3 years	Michihili (Chinese)	78	<i>Slicing</i>	
<b>ASIAN GREENS</b>		Optiko (Chinese)	75	General Lee	55
Joi Choi	50	Red Acre	74	Suyo	61
Mei Qing Choi	45	<b>CANTALOUPE (Muskmelon)</b>		Straight Eight	63
Tatsoi	45	Ambrosia	86	Sweet Slice	62
		Caravelle	80	Tasty Jade	54
<b>BEANS</b>		Hale's Best	82	<b>EGGPLANT</b>	
<i>Bush</i>		Lambkin	70	Black Beauty	74
Contender	55	<b>CARROTS</b>		Ichiban	61
Derby	57	Chantenay Red Core	65	Fairy Tale	65
Goldito	54	Danvers 126	75	Ping Tung Long	65
Maxibel	50	Little Finger	65	<b>GARLIC</b>	
Provider	50	Mokum	54	Elephant	8-9 months
Roma II	53	Nantes	68	Texas White	8-9 months
Topcrop	50	Nelson	56	<b>GREENS, SPECIALTY</b>	
<i>Pole</i>		<b>CAULIFLOWER</b>		<i>Cool Season</i>	
Kentucky Wonder	65	Cheddar	68	Arugula	40
Garden of Eden	65	Snow Crown	50	Corn Salad/Mache	50
McCaslan	61	Snowball Y	68	Curly Endive	60
Northeaster	56	Graffiti	75	Radicchio Red Preco	60
Romano	60	Veronica	78	<i>Warm Season</i>	
<i>Butterbean (Lima)</i>		<b>CHARD, SWISS</b>		Lambsquarter	40
Dixie Butterpea	76	Bright Lights	60	Malabar Spinach	55
Fordhook 242	67	Fordhook	55	Molokhia	60
Bush Henderson	65	Rhubarb Red	55	New Zealand Spinach	70
Jackson Wonder	65	<b>COLLARDS</b>		Vegetable Amaranth	50
Sieva (pole)	80	Champion	75	<b>KALE</b>	
<b>BEETS</b>		Georgia Southern	75	Dwarf Blue Curled	55
Bulls' Blood	60	Vates	68	Redbor	55
Chioggia	55	<b>CORN</b>		Red Russian	60
Detroit Dark Red	60	How Sweet It Is	80	Toscana (Dino Kale)	65
Golden	55	Kandy Korn	89	<b>KOHLRABI</b>	
Red Ace	50	Merit Hybrid	80	Early White Vienna	55
Ruby Queen	60	Silver Queen	90	Kolibri	48
<b>BROCCOLI</b>					
Green Comet	55				
Marathon	68				
Packman	53				
Premium Crop	62				

LEEKs	Days to Harvest	PEPPER	Days to Harvest	SQUASH, SUMMER	Days to Harvest
American Flag	130	<i>Hot</i>		<i>Patty Pan</i>	
King Richard	75	Cayenne	70-75	Sunburst	52
<b>LETTUCE</b>		Garden Salsa	73	White Bush Scallop	47
<i>Leaf &amp; Bibb</i>		Habanero	95	<i>Yellow</i>	
Black Seeded Simpson	40	Hungarian Wax	70	Butterstick	50
Buttercrunch	65	Serrano	70	Dixie Crookneck	41
Galactic	58	Tabasco	80	Multipik	50
Lollo Rossa	53	<i>Jalapeño</i>		Zephyr	54
Salad Bowl	48	El Jefe	67	<i>Zucchini</i>	
Tango	45	Mucho Nacho	75	Black Beauty	45
<i>Romaine</i>		Señorita Mild	60	Costata Romanesco	52
Jericho	57	TAM	65-70	Eight Ball	40
Little Caesar	70	<i>Sweet</i>		Freckles	45
Parris Island Cos	70	Big Bertha	72	President	49
Winter Density	54	Blushing Beauty	72	<b>SQUASH, WINTER</b>	
<b>MUSTARD</b>		California Wonder	75	Table Queen	80
Florida Broadleaf	45	Cubanelle	68	Early Butternut	85
Osaka Purple	40	Gypsy	65	Waltham Butternut	85
Red Giant	45	Pimento L	78	Small Wonder Spaghetti	80
Tendergreen	40	Sweet Banana	65	<i>Butternut/Kabocha</i>	
<b>OKRA</b>		<b>POTATOES</b>		Bon Bon	95
Burgundy	60	Kennebec (white)	75-100	Buttercup	95
Cajun Delight	53	Red Lasoda	75-100	Sunshine	95
Clemson Spineless	56	Red Pontiac	70-100	<i>Specialty</i>	
Emerald	58	Russet Norkotah	65-70	Carnival	95
Louisiana Green Velvet	55	Yukon Gold	65-75	Delicata	98
		<i>Fingerling</i>		Sweet Dumpling	100
		Austrian Crescent	65-75	<b>TOMATOES</b>	
		Russian Banana	65-75	<i>Standard</i>	
<b>ONION</b>		<b>POTATOES, SWEET</b>		Big Beef	73
<i>Bulbing (transplants)</i>		Beauregard	120-140	Celebrity	70
Contessa	100+	Centennial	120-140	Cherokee Purple	72
Grano 1015Y	110+	Georgia Jet	120-140	Early Girl	57
Red Burgundy	110+	Jewel	120-140	First Lady	66
Southern Belle (Red)	110+	<b>PUMPKIN</b>		Solar Fire	73
White Bermuda	95+	Aspen	90	Sunmaster	74
<i>Green/Bunching</i>		Big Max	120	<i>Cherry</i>	
Evergreen White	65	Connecticut Field	105	Juliet	62
Green Banner	60	Jack-B-Little	90	Sugary	60
<b>PEAS, GARDEN</b>		Jack-O-Lantern	100	Sweet Baby Girl	65
<i>English</i>		Small Sugar	110	Sweet Olive	57
Little Marvel	62	<b>RADISH</b>		Sweet 100	60
Wando	70	Cherry Belle	25	Yellow Pear	78
<i>Snap</i>		Easter Egg	30	<i>Paste</i>	
Cascadia	58	Misato Rose Red Meat	60	Roma	78
Sugar Ann	52	White Icicle	30	Viva Italia	72
Super Sugar Snap	60	<i>Daikon</i>		<b>TURNIPS</b>	
<i>Snow</i>		April Cross	60	Hakurei	38
Dwarf Grey Sugar	60	Minowase	55	Purple Top White Globe	55
Oregon Giant	60	Miyashige	50	Seven Top	45
<b>PEAS, SOUTHERN</b>		<b>SPINACH</b>		Tokyo Cross	35
California Blackeye #5	60	Bloomsdale	45	White Lady	40
Cream 40	60	Melody	42	<b>WATERMELON</b>	
Mississippi Silver	65	Space	40	Black Diamond	90
Pinkeye Purple Hull	65	Tyee	45	Crimson Sweet	85
				Jubilee	95
				Sugar Baby	75

# Mulch

Covering your garden in a 2-4in. layer of mulch will reduce evaporation from the soil, cutting down on your watering needs.

Mulching also suppresses weeds and builds your soil.

## Mulching options:

- \* Leaves
- \* Pine needles
- \* Seedless hay or straw
- \* Other fine, aged plant materials
- \* Avoid colored wood chips
- \* Leave space between mulch and plant stem



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# Water

- \* Because Central Texas has a hot, semi-arid climate, successful vegetable gardens require frequent watering.
- \* Finger test: if you stick your finger in the bed and it feels dry, it needs water!
- \* Water daily after sowing seeds and transplanting
- \* Water established plants deeply and less frequently. General guideline is 1 inch of water per week.

## Watering options:

- \* Tap vs. rain water. Rain water is better if it's available!
- \* Ceramic ollas provide deep watering and help reduce the need to water a lot.
- \* Hand watering only at AACG, no drip irrigation.

## Water restrictions:

COA is frequently under various stages of water restrictions. These restrictions do not apply to hand-watering your garden with a soaker hose.



# Composting 101



## WHAT YOU WILL NEED

**Brown material to produce carbon:**  
Dead leaves, branches and twigs, sawdust or wood chips, coffee filters, cotton and wool rags, shredded pieces of paper, cardboard or newspaper and shredded nut shells.



**Green material to produce nitrogen:**  
Grass clippings and leaves, fruit and vegetable scraps, hair, lint, tea and coffee grounds



**Water**



- 1 Select a dry, shady spot near a water source.**  
Ideal size for your compost area is 3 feet wide by 3 feet deep by 3 feet tall (1 cubic yard). You can buy a bin, use chicken wire, or just isolate an area of ground for your compost heap.



- 2 Add brown and green material in alternate layers.**  
Try and keep the ratio roughly 3 parts browns to 1 part greens. Make sure larger pieces of material are chopped or shredded.



- 3 Keep the compost moist [but not too wet].**  
Moisture helps with the breakdown of organic matter.



- 4 Occasionally turn your compost mixture to provide aeration.**  
This helps speed up the composting process and keeps things airy, which cuts the risk of things getting smelly.



- 5 As materials breakdown, the pile will get warm.**  
There might even be steam. Don't be alarmed. That means it's working. Now you just have to wait.



- 6 All done!**  
When material is dark with no remnants of food or waste, your compost is ready. Add it to lawns and gardens or anywhere that could benefit from some good soil.

## WHAT NOT TO COMPOST

Metal, glass, and other products that do not easily breakdown, coal or charcoal ash, diseased or insect-ridden plants, black walnut tree leaves and twigs, pet waste, bones, meat, fats, oils dairy products and eggs (egg shells are OK), and yard trimmings treated with chemical pesticides.

# Troubleshooting Compost

Composting is a natural process whereby organisms consume organic matter and break it down into soil. If your compost pile is not composting, your organisms aren't getting the right combination of air, water and nutrients that they need.

## Problems and Solutions

- |                                   |   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Compost pile is not heating up    | - | * Not enough nitrogen (green/wet matter)<br>Add fresh lawn clippings or food scraps                   |
|                                   |   | * Not enough water<br>Water the pile thoroughly   |
|                                   |   | * Not enough oxygen<br>Use a pitchfork to turn the pile   |
| Compost pile smells               | - | * Too much nitrogen<br>Add carbon (brown/dry matter) such as leaves, straw, paper, or soft wood chips |
|                                   |   | * Too much water<br>Add carbon and water less   |
|                                   |   | * Not enough oxygen<br>Use a pitchfork to turn the pile   |
| Compost is attracting rats        | - | * Too wet<br>Add carbon   |
| Compost is attracting cockroaches | - | * Too dry<br>Add nitrogen   |

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Once you can no longer identify your food and yard scraps, your compost pile is done.