

The Spring Planting Guide 2007

Potatoes

Cultivation: Plant spuds starting on St. Patrick's Day through June. Space 10-12 inches in rows 2 feet apart. Hill up soil over the growing foliage or mulch with straw to increase yields.

Soil/Sun: Potatoes prefer loose, well-drained, acidic soil (pH 4.8-5.5) and full sun.

Suggested Varieties: Yukon Gold, White Rose, Yellow Finn, Purple Peruvian, Red Pontiac.

Pumpkins

Cultivation: Plant transplants late May-early June in hills 4 feet apart. Water generously. Black plastic mulch can speed growth.

Soil/Sun: Loose, fertile, well-drained soil, pH 5.8-6.8, with full sun.

Suggested Varieties: Frosty, Small Sugar, Spirit, Cinderella.

Radish

Cultivation: Sow seeds 1/2 inch deep, 1/2 inch apart, March-August. Thin to 1-1 1/2 inches. Radishes require plentiful, consistent watering.

Soil/Sun: Fertile, well-drained soil free of stones, pH 5.8-6.8. Full sun to partial shade.

Suggested Varieties: Cherry Belle, Altaglobe, French Breakfast.

Rutabaga

Cultivation: Sow seeds 1/2 inch deep, 2 inches apart, June-July 15. Thin to 6 inches. Flavor improves after frost.

Soil/Sun: Loose, well-drained soil, pH above 6.0. Tolerates low fertility. Full sun to partial shade.

Suggested Varieties: Marian, Laurentian.

Spinach

Cultivation: Sow seeds 1/2 inch deep, 1 inch apart, March-August. Thin to 6-12 inches by harvesting baby greens. Water generously; dry soil and heat encourage bolting.

Soil/Sun: Rich, well-drained soil. Sensitive to acidic soils; pH 6.5-7.5. Full to partial sun.

Suggested Varieties: Olympia, Bloomsdale, Tyee, Skookum.

Summer Squash, Zucchini

Cultivation: Plant seeds or transplants May 15-June 15. Sow seeds 1/2-1 inch deep in hills, 4-5 seeds per hill. Space hills 3-4 feet; thin seedlings to 2 per hill. Requires consistent

watering for good fruit set. Black plastic mulch speeds growth. Seeds will rot in cold, wet ground.

Soil/Sun: Loose, fertile, well-drained soil, pH 5.8-6.8, full sun.

Suggested Varieties: Squash: Yellow Crookneck, Sunburst, Butterstick. Zucchini: Gold Rush, Spacemiser.

Winter Squash

Cultivation: Sow seeds 1/2-1 inch deep in hills, 4-5 seeds per hill, May 15-June 15. Space hills 4-6 feet; thin seedlings to 2 per hill.

Soil/Sun: Loose, fertile, well-drained soil, pH 5.8-6.8, full sun.

Suggested Varieties: Gold Nugget, Acorn, Zenith Butternut, Waltham Butternut, Spaghetti.

Swiss Chard

Cultivation: Sow seeds 1/2-1 inch deep, 2-6 inches apart, April-July. Thin to 6-12 inches. Harvest leaves throughout the season to encourage new growth.

Soil/Sun: Loose, fertile, well-drained soil, pH 6.0-7.0. Full sun to partial shade.

Suggested Varieties: Rhubarb, Fordhook Giant, Bright Lights.

Tomatoes

Cultivation: Plant transplants May-June. Space determinate varieties 18-24 inches; space indeterminate varieties 20-30 inches. Place transplants with the lower leaf set just above soil level. Tomatoes should be staked or supported by a trellis.

Soil/Sun: Fertile, well-drained soil with full sun. Clays and loams produce higher yields, but loose soil warms faster and provides an earlier harvest. Prefers pH 6.0-6.8 but will tolerate acidic soils.

Suggested Varieties: Early: Oregon Spring, Willamette VF, Medford, Big Beef, Early Cascade. Sauce: Oregon Star, Principe Borghese. Cherry: Gold Nugget, Sun Gold, Isis Candy.

Turnips

Cultivation: Sow seeds 1/4-1/2 inch deep, 1 inch apart, April-September. Thin to 4-6 inches. Flavor best if harvested during cool weather.

Soil/Sun: Fertile, loose, well-drained soil, pH 6.0-7.5. Full sun to partial shade.

Suggested Varieties: Purple Top White Globe, Scarlet Ball, Shogoin (greens).

ORNAMENTAL GARDENING GUIDE

March

Plant trees and shrubs. Prepare new areas for planting. Divide and plant perennials. Pull weeds before they flower and set seed. Fertilize just about everything unless you did it in February. Prune spring-flowering shrubs as blossoms fade. Protect new growth of bulbs and perennials from slugs.

April

Start new lawns. Watch for local plant sales. Plant perennials, gladiolus and hardy annuals. Feed bulbs while they are green and growing. Continue pruning spring-flowering shrubs. Shear ivy and heather. Cut old leaves off sword ferns. Trim lavender and sage after new growth begins. Check irrigation systems.

May

Plant dahlias and other tender bulbs. Plant perennials, annuals and container plants. Remove dead flowers from young rhodies. Water rhododendrons and bulbs liberally. Start aphid control - flush with water, spray insecticidal soap. Control slugs. Weed and mulch between plants.

June

Begin regular feeding of container plants. Prune rhododendrons and azaleas. Control aphids with water and insecticidal soap. Watch for cutworms and hand-pick! Stake summer-blooming perennials. Cut back those that have bloomed. Continue mulching.

July

Watering lawns is not essential but it helps discourage weeds. Prune broad-leaved evergreens. Watch for cutworms. Hand-pick or use BT. Shorten new growth on espaliered apples and pears. Deadhead early perennials. Stake tall perennials before they flop. Replenish mulches to hold moisture.

August

Water annuals liberally, in flower beds or pots. Dead-head perennials, roses. Remove diseased leaves from roses, rose beds. Groom and feed container plants regularly. Replant tired containers. Order spring-flowering bulbs. Remember to moisten compost piles.

VEGETABLE PLANTING GUIDE

May

After May 15 (frost free date for our area) you can sow squash and beans and plant out seedlings of tomato and pepper (protect from 40 degree nights! Cool temps can stunt plants). Hold off on planting basil till June 1! There's still time to plant onion and shallot sets. You can still sow peas and parsley through May. Water garden if rainfall drops below an inch a week.

June

Continue sowing squash and beans.

Plant carrots (seed) and celery (transplants). Plant basil and other annual herb starts. Apply organic mulches while ground is moist.

July

Net blueberries if you want fruit! Prepare soil freed up by early vegetable crops; you can still sow lettuce, carrots, beans and chard. Plant broccoli and Brussels sprouts for fall harvest.

August

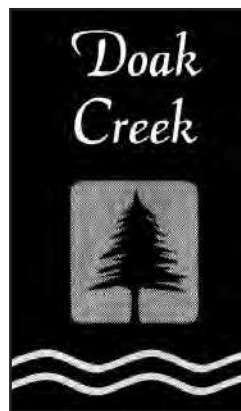
Sow lettuce, mustard greens, turnips and spinach.



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