



## HOW DO I KNOW **WHEN IT'S OK TO PLANT?**

For cool-season vegetables, you generally want to plant at the end of March or the beginning of April, depending on when your last frost is set to hit and current weather conditions.

**A**h, spring! The sun is shining, the trees are budding and, most importantly, the ground is thawing. If you want to grow your own fruits and veggies this season, these low-maintenance plants are great—even for beginners.

### CUCUMBER

To enjoy fresh cucumbers all summer long, plant them two weeks after the last frost. Cucumbers require a lot of sunlight and fertile soil in order to flourish, so pick a sunny spot and add lots of fertilizer. Plant the seeds in rows 6 feet apart.



### PEPPERS

To be successful in growing peppers in colder weather, start by growing the seeds inside and transplant them after eight to 10 weeks. Begin by placing the seeds in a warm, wet paper towel inside a plastic bag. Once the seeds sprout, move them to a pea pot and eventually into the ground. Don't plant them outside until the overnight temperature is 55°F at the lowest.



### CARROTS

Carrots are best planted a few weeks before the last frost, but you can still meet with success if you plant them right now. These orange veggies do best in loose, rock-free soil. Plant the seeds 3 inches apart in rows 1 foot apart. Don't use manure in the soil, or your carrots may end up growing extra legs (really!).

### TOMATOES

Tomatoes are sun worshipers and do best in warm soil, so it's best to plant them in late spring. Add lots of compost and fertilizer to the soil, and sprinkle in plenty of growing room by placing seeds far apart.



### BROCCOLI

Broccoli can survive in colder climates and thrives in slightly acidic soil. Plant seeds one half-inch underground. Start fertilizing three weeks later.

### GARLIC

Garlic is a cinch to grow, and it acts as a natural insect repellent. It's normally planted in fall, but early spring is OK, too. Plant your cloves 2 inches into the soil and 4 inches apart. Cut off flower shoots that may pop up in spring, as they inhibit bulb growth.



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### POTATOES

Potatoes can survive a frost or two, which means they can be planted right at the beginning of spring. Make sure the dirt is slightly acidic and loose—tightly compacted soil leads to malformed potatoes. To plant, cut up a potato and plant the chunks, eye side up, 4 inches deep. When the stems of the plants reach 8 inches, start to cover the bottoms with extra soil. Sunlight makes the potatoes green and bitter tasting, so it's best to keep them well covered.



### ONIONS

Plant onions in soil mixed with compost in early spring. The bulbs should be placed about 6 inches

apart. A steady supply of water is needed for the little bulbs to grow, but they're heartier than they may appear and can snap back from a drought.



### RASPBERRIES

These antioxidant-packed berries are perfect for summer fruit salads. They can be planted in the summer, but early spring yields the best tasting crops. The berries are prone to root rot, so they do best well in a raised bed with rich soil that drains well. Manure or compost will help the fruit really flourish.



# TIME TO GET GROWING!

**1 Grow something!** Plant what you can grow successfully and will enjoy eating—without it overtaking your plot. If planting vegetables with climbing vines, take care to not overshadow or intrude upon on your neighbors' gardens. Avoid invasive species. Mint, for one, could easily overtake your plot and your neighbors' plots!

**2 No empty plots.** An unattended, overgrown or barren plot hinders the well-being of other plots and causes Garden Center staff and neighbors to worry about your welfare. If you are unable to spend the time and energy necessary for plot upkeep, consider cancelling your plot membership. Upkeep includes keeping your garden plot and 3 feet outside your plot weed free. Plot inspections will begin soon, so please keep your plot well maintained and, remember, trees are not permitted in vegetable plots.

**3 Respect your environment.** Remember that whatever you do can affect your fellow gardeners and surroundings.

## Don't Forget...

- **Expect** billing to be mailed soon
- **Keep** pathways, common areas and plots weed free
- **Harvest** all produce; leave nothing on the vine
- **Remove** all vines and dead plants from past season
- **Remove** trees from your garden plot
- **Be** courteous and respectful to your neighbors
- **Share** water if necessary; do not overwater
- **Report** water issues/leaks to staff or Security
- **Keep** your plot tidy; eliminate debris and clutter
- **Fold** up your umbrella when not in use
- **Care** for the tools you use; return them to storage after use