



Summit Achieve Community Garden

PLANTING THE GARDEN BED

DIRECT SEED SOWING

--First, prepare garden bed by working compost into 1' depth of soil. Mix well. Compost will organically feed vegetables throughout the growing season and will provide perfect soil texture for root development. Also mix a small quantity of compost into planting hole at time of seed sowing.

-- You can buy good quality compost at a garden center, or you can make your own. When buying bagged compost, avoid those that contain only one source; look for a diversity of sources in one product, such as plant scraps, leaves, and manure.

--Follow instructions on seed packet for distance between rows and plants, and for planting depth.

--Cover seeds according to package instructions.

--Once the seedling is well established, about 3" high, working in a circle 3" from the stem, gently mix into the top 1" of soil an organic fertilizer high in phosphorus (15-30-15). This will ensure strong root development. Follow instructions on label as to amount of fertilizer. Take care not to disturb the plant or its roots.

TRANSPLANTING SEEDLINGS

- Plants that have been started indoors or kept in a greenhouse are too tender to transplant directly to the garden and must be “hardened off,” which is the process of gradually introducing plants to outdoor light and temperatures. Over a period of 2 weeks, move plants outdoors for part of day, gradually increasing length of time and intensity of sunlight.
- Always transplant on a cloudy day or in the early evening.
- Thoroughly soak plant roots before planting.
- Prepare garden bed by mixing compost and an organic fertilizer high in phosphorus (15-30-15) into 1' depth of soil. Phosphorus ensures good root development from the outset. Follow instructions on label as to amount of fertilizer. See information above on sources of compost. Also mix a handful of compost into planting hole at time of planting.
- If the bed was not first prepared with compost and there are other plants in the bed that cannot be disturbed, dig a hole that will amply support the plant at its full size and mix the removed soil with compost and an organic fertilizer high in phosphorus (15-30-15). Follow instructions on label as to amount of fertilizer. Back fill hole with amended soil.
- Make a hole deep enough to care for the plant's roots without bundling them up
- Set the plant deep enough for the soil to provide upright support
- Tomatoes should be planted deeply, at least up to its first set of leaves, or if the plant is spindly, remove all but top tier of leaves and plant up to this level. This allows roots to grow horizontally from the stem and will support plant as it grows larger
- Insert plant in hole and firm up soil around the roots and stem to eliminate air pockets
- Thoroughly soak soil around plant
- Apply mulch

