



SHAWNEE COUNTY EXTENSION

MASTER GARDENERS

DEMONSTRATION VEGETABLE AND COMMUNITY GARDEN

LEARN EDIBLE GARDENING BASICS

Whether looking for ideas on how to start an edible garden or how to improve your success with an existing one, the Shawnee County Extension Master Gardener Demonstration Vegetable + Community Garden is there to help. Visitors can observe gardening techniques in action and ask questions about growing food in their own gardens. Extension Master Gardeners will be available every Saturday from April through October, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Please visit the garden, located on the west side of the CRC Care Center @ Stout, 2303 SW College Ave.

PLANNING

- Plan to plant what you like to eat.
- Consider your abilities, raised, beds and containers are best for a bad back.
- Take a soil sample from your plot to the Shawnee County Extension Office for a soil test to learn what to add to your soil for best results.
- For more information on soil testing, go to [Lawn and Garden Soil Testing](#).

SITE SELECTION

- Six hours per day of full sun is needed for most food plants. A few vegetables, like lettuces, do well in part sun.
- A level site with soil rich in organic matter holds water well.
- Have a water source nearby, like a spigot, faucet, or rain barrel.

SITE SELECTION

Kansas' intense summer heat, humidity, and harsh winds are hard on plants, so choose plant varieties that have been proven to thrive in local weather and soil conditions. See the K-State Extension publication "[Recommended Vegetable Varieties](#)".

GARDEN MAINTENANCE TIPS

- Watering the soil is preferred, as watering the leaves promotes foliar diseases. Water deeply and infrequently to encourage deeper root development.
- Maintain a 2-3 inch layer of mulch along the rows to suppress weeds, keep the soil temperature consistent, and conserve water.
- Hand pick or hoe weeds when they are small, they can quickly get out of hand!

- Hand pick insect pests and use pesticides only when necessary. If you must use a pesticide, choose a liquid form of pesticide and apply in the evening to reduce your chances of harming pollinators. Always follow the pesticide label exactly.

GARDENS FOR SMALL SPACES

If space for a traditional, in-ground garden is unavailable, consider the following options:

- Raised beds - See K-State Extension's "[Raised Bed Gardening](#)".
- Containers and free standing raised beds - See K-State Research and Extension's "[Growing Vegetables in Pots](#)".

KANSAS GARDEN GUIDE

The Kansas Garden Guide is a great resource to have with you in the garden. This publication includes information on:

- Improving the soil
- Garden maintenance practices
- Methods to extend the growing season
- Management of insect and mite pests
- Management of plant diseases
- When to harvest crops
- How to store crops for long-term enjoyment of your work
- Information on common vegetable crops and herbs

The Kansas Garden Guide is available online through the [K-State Extension Bookstore](#). Printed copies are available for purchase at the Shawnee County Extension Office.

K-STATE
Research and Extension

Master Gardener
Shawnee County

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