



SHAWNEE COUNTY EXTENSION MASTER GARDENERS

VEGETABLE DEMONSTRATION 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 Vegetable Demonstration 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. Compost demonstrations to teach the basics of creating and using this “black gold” in your garden, are held on the first Saturday in April and October at 9:30 a.m. Please visit the garden, located just off the Kansas Expocentre’s south parking lot, behind the art mural and next to the locomotive.

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 your soil composition, pH and fertility needs.

SITE SELECTION

- Six hours a day of full sun is needed for most food plants. A few plants, like lettuces, do well in part sun.
- A level site with humus soil holds water well.
- Have a water source nearby.

LOCAL CONDITIONS

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 K-State Research and Extension publication, “Recommended Vegetable Varieties.”

GARDEN MAINTENANCE TIPS

- Ground irrigation is preferred as overhead watering promotes foliar disease. Water deeply and less often to encourage deeper root development.
- Maintain a 2 to 3 inch layer of mulch along the rows but not touching the plants.
- Hand pick or hoe weeds when they are small. They can quickly get out of hand.
- Plant pollinator friendly plants nearby that flower throughout the season to increase your garden harvest.

- 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 chance of harming pollinators. Always follow the pesticide label exactly.
- For when to plant and harvest, see K-State Research and Extension’s “Kansas Garden Guide”, “Vegetable Garden Calendar.”

GARDENS FOR SMALL SPACES

If space for traditional row gardening is unavailable, consider the following options:

- Raised beds – See “*Raised Bed Gardening*”, K-State Research and Extension publication MF-2134
- Containers and free standing raised beds – See “*Container Gardening*”, K-State Research and Extension publication EP-31
- Edible landscapes – See “*Incorporating Vegetables into the Landscape*”, Johnson County Extension Master Gardeners publication

Works cited:

- Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service. “Kansas Garden Guide”, March 2010
- Kimberly Taylor, Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology 6/2007 University of Florida/IFAS Extension

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