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## VEGETABLE GARDEN GUIDE

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The attached list of vegetables, varieties, maturing dates and other information is intended as a guide to vegetable garden selections for Central Oregon. It does not claim to be inclusive.

### CLIMATE

Due to differences in the various parts of Central Oregon in growing season, average temperature and soil types, more success may be experienced in some locations than others. Unusual protected locations make it possible to grow successfully certain plants that cannot be recommended generally for Central Oregon. Yearly variations in weather also affect consistent success.

### SOILS

Most garden vegetables require a soil acidity of pH 5.5 - 7.5. Nearly all Central Oregon soils fall within this range and therefore, are suitable for garden with regards to soil acidity.

### GROWING SEASON

With some slight variations most of Central Oregon can count on approximately 90 days growing season. This is often a short time to mature some vegetables, such as tomatoes, squash, pumpkin and sometimes corn, if we experience adverse weather during this period.

### PLANTING DATES

Often we are tempted to plant too early and chance getting young seedlings frozen. Old timers of the area have a saying, "don't plant 'til the snow is off Black Butte". This has proven quite accurate and generally occurs by June 1st.

### FERTILIZATION

Fertilization of garden soil should be an annual procedure. Three to five inches of cow manure worked into the soil prior to seeding is an accepted practice. If commercial fertilizers are to be used be sure to use a "complete" fertilizer, that is one that contains nitrogen, phosphorus, and potash. By law, all commercial fertilizer bags must list the contents. Usually, this is done with three sets of numbers such as 5-10-5. The first set in all cases, stands for per cent of nitrogen. The second number is for per cent of phosphorus and the third number is for per cent of potash. The fertilizer recommendations contained in this guide suggest 5-10-5, or 10-10-10, etc. The most important consideration would be to

use a "complete" fertilizer of these or similar percentage combinations. A special formulation for this area is 12-12-12. Fertilizer formulations containing sulfur are also beneficial, otherwise, 10 to 15 pounds gypsum per 1,000 square feet should supply the needed sulfur.

### MATURITY

The estimates of days to maturity are general estimates based on optimum conditions. Some vegetables, often difficult to mature such as tomatoes, may be salvaged by special attention.

Warming - Soil temperature is often important. A mulch of black plastic can increase soil temperatures when placed under tomatoes, cucumbers, squash and peppers. Reflected heat can be increased by a framework covered with aluminum foil. Covering (plastic, sheeting, cheese cloth) can protect cold-sensitive plants in early and late parts of the season.

Tomatoes - Green tomatoes still on the vine at the end of the season can be ripened and used by picking and keeping in a cool place. Bring a few at a time as you use them, into the warm part of the house. Place on a window sill and turn occasionally. They will turn color in 2 to 3 days. Or, pull the entire tomato vine and hang upside down in your garage or barn. Tomatoes will ripen while still attached to the vine.

| VEGETABLES      | VARIETIES  | COMMENTS   |
|-----------------|--|--|
| Asparagus       | Waltham, Washington<br>Mary Washington   | Plant June 1. Matures 3rd year from seed and 2nd year from roots, respectively. Yields 6 lbs. per 12 foot. One-two pounds 5-10-5 per 10 foot row.  |
| Beans<br>(Bush) | Improved tendergreen<br>tendercrop, Top Crop,<br>Gallatin 50, Wax types,<br>Pure Gold, Earligold | Plant June 1, after last frost. Possibly 3 plantings, 2 weeks apart. 60-65 days to maturity. Yields 7 lbs. per 15 feet of row over 3-4 weeks. When 6" tall, band 5-10-5, 1 cup per 10 feet of row.   |
| Beets           | Green Top, Early Wonder,<br>Ruby Queen Detroit Dark<br>Red, Seneca Detroit                       | Plant early spring as soon as soil is warm enough to germinate. Can plant successfully until average daytime temperature hits 80%. Spring and fall frosts do not bother until below 20%. 55-60 days to maturity. Yields 20 lbs. per 25 feet of row over 3-4 weeks. When 3-4" tall, band 5-10-5 along row, 2/3 cup per 10 feet. |
| Cabbage         | Golden Acre, Jersey<br>Wakefield, Marion<br>Market, Stone Head,<br>Superette, Bonanza            | Late May plant cabbage sets. Cover until danger of frost is past. 105+ days to maturity from date seed is sown. 90-95 days from plants. Yields 20 lbs. per 9 feet. Fertilize every 3-4 weeks; band 10-10-10, 1 cup per 10 feet of row.   |
| Carrots         | Gold Pak, Imperator<br>Gold Spike, Morse<br>bunching, Spartan Sweet,<br>Nantes                   | Plant late May, early June. 65-85 days to maturity. Yields 8 lbs. per 15 feet. Fertilize twice, first when plants are 3-4" tall and again at 6-8"; use 5-10-10. Band 2/3 cup per 10 feet of row.   |

| VEGETABLES      | VARIETIES   | COMMENTS   |
|-----------------|---|--|
| Chard           | Ford Hook, Giant  | Plant mid-May or 2-3 weeks before last frost 60-70 days from seeding to maturity. Yields 8 feet of row per 7 lbs. Scatter 5-10-5 around the plant at the rate of 1/2 cup to 10 ft. of row every 4-6 weeks.   |
| Chinese Cabbage | Michilli<br>Wong Bok  | Plant in late May (may send up inedible seed stalks when weather turns hot. 90 days from seeding to maturity. Yields 12 heads per 10 ft. of row. Work in 2" of compost or 4" well rotted cow manure prior to planting. Every 3-4 weeks during season scatter 2/3 cup of 10-10-10 in band along each side 10 ft.  |
| Collard         | Georgia, Vates  | Plant late May to first of June. Will not fully mature for 90 days but leaves may be eaten at 60 days. Yields 25 feet of row to 20 lbs. Fertilize every 3-4 weeks with 10-10-10 at the rate of 1 cup per 10 feet of row.   |
| Corn            | <u>Early Season:</u> Golden Beauty, Seneca Beauty, Seneca Star<br><u>Mid-Season:</u> Golden Bantam, Early Xtra Sweet Hybrid, NK199      | Plant late May, first part of June with plantings at 2 week intervals of early or short season varieties. Mid-season or late varieties may have time for only one planting. Maturity ranges from 65 days to over 90. In most cases short season varieties are best for here. 25 feet of row will yield about 40 ears over a 2-week period. when 4-6" high and again at 8-10" fertilize with 10-10-10 at the rate of 1 cup per 10 ft. of row. |
| Cucumbers       | <u>Slicers:</u> Burpee hybrid, Straight eight, Sure Crop hybrid, burpless<br><u>Pickles:</u> SMR 18 or SMR 58 Trial Crusader or Pioneer | Seed indoors in fiber pots in early May and transplant June 1 or plant directly outside after date of last frost. Two months after planting to maturity. 10 ft. row yields about 20 lbs. over six weeks. Scatter a cupful of 5-10-5 around the hill every 2-3 weeks.   |
| Kohlrabi        | Early white Vienna and Early purple Vienna  | Plant June 1 and every 2 weeks until mid-July. Approximately 60 days to maturity. A 12 ft. row yields 24. Scatter 10-10-10 at the rate of 2/3 cup per 10 ft. of row every 2-3 weeks.   |
| Leek            | Broad London or Large American Flag   | Sow in flats inside about mid-April. Transplant to garden after last frost. Takes about 4-1/2 months to fully mature but may be eaten anytime when long enough. 10 ft. of row will yield about 30. Every 3-4 weeks apply a cupful of 5-10-5 along each side of 10 ft. row.   |

| VEGETABLES | VARIETIES  | COMMENTS   |
|------------|--|--|
| Lettuce    | Oak Leaf, Black Seeded Simpson, Prize Head, Ruby & Salad Bowl  | Plant first of June. 6-7 weeks after sowing to maturity; usually only early summer. Hot weather causes seed stalks to grow. 15 ft. row yields 10 lbs. over 10 weeks. Fertilize every 2-3 weeks. Scatter 2/3 cup of 5-10-5 along each side of row.  |
| Onion      | (Bermuda) Crystal White Wax, (Portugal) White Sweet Spanish, (Yellow Bulb) Riesta, (Bunching) Evergreen White Bunching, & Hardy White Bunching | Plant first of May. 90-100 days after setting plant sets to maturity. 10 ft. row yields 10 lbs. over 10 weeks. Fertilize twice, once when about 6" tall and again when about 12" tall. Scatter 1/2 cup along 10 ft. of row.  |
| Peas       | Minagreen, Midfreezer Little Marvel Perfected Freezer 60, Mohawk Wonds   | Plant late April to late May. After soil can be worked, but at least 60 days prior to when average daytime temperatures will reach 75°-80°. When temperatures consistently exceed 80° plant may blight and fail. 59-70 days to maturity depending upon variety. Short bush types are normally shorter season peas. A 15 ft. row may yield 3-5 lbs. per week for about 3 weeks or longer depending on weather. Mix 1-1/2 to 2 cups 5-10-5 or other complete fertilizer high in pH to every 10 ft. of double row. Plant in double row 8" apart, 2" deep. |
| Peppers    | (In order of maturity) Vinette Early Bountiful, Early Cal Wonder, Penn Wonder.   | Set plants June 1. Protect from cool nights in early season. Will produce only under unusual circumstance. Needs nighttime temperature of at least 50°. Where successful will produce in 70-75 days. Yield varies widely. Fertilize twice when plants are about 8" tall and again at 12". 2/3 cup 5-10-5 per 10 ft. of row.  |
| Potato     | Early Gem, Irish Cobbler (Russets), Norgold, Kennebec, Burbank   | Early May to the end of the month plant. Can begin harvest anytime tubers reach sufficient size. Harvest all potatoes in late October. 25 ft. row will yield 25-35 lbs.  |
| Pumpkin    | Small Sugar, Spookie, Jack O'Lantern   | Late May to early June. Sometimes grown; require warm nights; will mature in about 4 months. Protected areas most successful. 4-10 pumpkins per hill. Place bushel of compost or well-rotted cow manure 8"-12" under soil where pumpkins are to be planted.  |
| Radish     | Burpee White, White Icicle, Cherry Bells, Comet, Red Prince  | Start in mid-May and sow successive plantings 10 days apart until mid-June. A planting in mid-August is also often successful. Grow fast and stale early; use as soon as root is large enough; pull all unused radishes at the end of 30 days after sowing. 12 ft. row will  |

## VEGETABLES

## VARIETIES

## COMMENTS

Radish (con't)

give 6 lbs. in about a week. Place all fertilizer before seeding. Apply 3"-4" manure or compost worked into soil. Add 1 lb. 10-10-10 per 100 ft. row. Work in and add seed.

Rhubarb

MacDonald, Chipman  
Canada Red, Crimson Wine

Plant only roots, not seed, in mid-May. Plant 4" below surface. Mulch with 8"-10" straw, or manure in winter. Do not pull stalks to use until 2nd season, then only large stalks (1"). Leave other to replenish root food supply. 4-8 lbs. over 6 weeks from one plant. Heavy user of organic materials; work 6"-8" compost or manure into trench 2 ft. deep; replace top soil.

Squash,  
(Summer)

(Green varieties) Zucchini  
Hybrid, Coozelle (Yellow  
varities) Seneca Butter  
Bar, Early Golden in  
Summer Crookneck (Scallop)  
Early White Bush Scallops

Seeded directly in garden late May or early June. Can be started indoors 2-3 weeks earlier and transplanted. Protect from frost. Plant bush types 5'-6' apart; vines 4 ft. in rows 10 ft. apart or train on wall, trellis, etc. Matures in range from 50 days on some "green varieties" to 60 days on scallops when planted from seed. Could be longer in cool season. Two hills should yield about 16 lbs. in 8 weeks but will continue to produce until fall frost. Responds well to generous amounts of organic matter. Dig trench 2 ft. deep if possible. Fill bottom foot with manure or compost. Side dress with 1/2 cup 5-10-10.

Squash,  
(Winter)

Gold Nugget-85 days,  
Butternut-95 days,  
Table Queen-85 days,  
Hubbard-110 days

Seed outside, last of May early June. May be started indoors 2-3 weeks earlier and transplanted. Plant 4 ft. apart in rows 10 ft. apart or train to a wall or trellis. Matures seldom less than 90 days. Hubbard, Banana may reach 115-120 days. Winter squash must be well matured or they are watery, poor taste and do not keep well. Success with winter squash may be spotty with best results at lower elevations of Central Oregon. Plantings near rock or concrete retaining walls may benefit from stored heat in rocks during evening hours. Yields 10-40 lbs. from 1 to 4 hills depending upon variety. Harvest and let cure in the sun for a week or more before storage. Fertilize same as summer squash.

Tomato

Early Girl, Spring  
Set, Valiant, Fireball,  
Spring Giant

Set plants deep 4"-6" in late, late May, early June. Cover at night until established. Southwest side flower beds next to house good. Range from 65 to 90 days to maturity. Depends on variety, summer heat

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**VEGETABLES****VARIETIES****COMMENTS**

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Tomato (con't)

and protection. Blossom set hormone some-  
times necessary to set fruit. Yields 5 to  
20 lbs. per plant. Band 5-10-5, 1/2 cup  
per plant at planting time and one month  
later. Excess nitrogen causes foliage and  
few fruits.

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