

Planting & Care of Your Plant Starts

Place your plants in a sunny location. For generally healthy plants give your transplants a deeply worked soil enriched with organic compost, not fresh manure as it will burn your plants. A light sprinkling of lime powder will help balance an overly acid soil ph. Addition of some all purpose fertilizer is good for most crops. Those that are heavy feeders or will be in the ground a long time before harvest do well with some mid-season fertilization. Regular deep watering is essential during dry times. Check soil moisture down about 6 inches with your finger. Many of these plants will grow well in a large container with good soil, experiment if you are short on space. Below are some general guidelines to help you get started. Happy growing!

Annual Crops

Crop	Spacing	Fertility needs/soil	Water	Comments
Lettuce & greens mix, aruglua, spinach	6-12" per clump	Average	Average, avoid during peak sun	Cut once and let come back again 2nd harvest
Brassicas (Kale, broccoli, cabbage, cauli, etc)	12-24" per plant	High	Consistently moist	Top dress with all purpose fertilizer
Peas	2" apart on trellis	Average, add bone meal	Average	Keep picked for longer production
Onions/ leeks	4" apart	Likes compost and rich soil	Average-high	Plant into shallow trench
Parsley	6-12" apart	High	Average	Will last till spring
Pac-choi	6" apart	Average	Consistently moist	Quick to grow
Fennel	6" apart	Average	Consistently moist	Harvest when bulbing
Beets	3-4" apart	Average	Consistently moist	Easy to grow
Chard	12" apart	Average – high	Average	Harvest outer leaves first
Corn	12" apart in 24" rows	High	Consistent and deep	Likes heat plant in blocks of at least 12 plants
Cucumbers	8" apart	Average – likes compost and good drainage	Average	Needs warmth try not to disturb the roots.
Squash, summer / winter	18-36" apart	See cucumbers	Average	See cucumbers
Beans	2" for pole (trellis) 12-18" for bush	Low- average	Consistent moisture	Keep well picked
Celery	12" apart	High	Consistent deep watering	Pick outer stems or all together
Tomato	18-24" apart Indeterminate need staking or trellising, determinate do not	Average-High Add bone meal	Let soil dry in between watering	Likes the warmest spot you have protect from wind.
Peppers	18-24" apart	High -Well composted soil, likes nitrogen	Consistent moisture	Set out mid June in warm spot
Eggplant	12" apart	Average-high	Average	Cover with row cover, likes heat
Basil	12" apart	Average	Average	Likes heat, pinch back flower buds
Cilantro and Dill	8" apart	Average	Average	Easy to grow

Annual flowers: Calendula, marigold, nasturtium, chamomile, and pansy

Plant around and in your garden. They will grow in any sunny garden soil. These plants help encourage beneficial insects that act as predators and pollinators. Calendula, marigold, nasturtium and pansy flowers are all edible and beautiful. Pick off expired flowers to encourage new ones to form (deadheading). Sometimes these plants will re-seed themselves if you let them.

Perennial vegetables and herbs: Artichoke, rhubarb, sorrel, oregano, thyme, marjoram, sage, mint, tarragon, echinacea, skullcap, catnip, angelica, elecampane, chives, anise hyssop, horehound, valerian, etc.

These plants are generally a bit less fussy. Pick a sunny permanent location with good drainage, water during the dry season, and compost annually. With any luck they will be back each spring!

Recommended reading:

Growing Vegetables West of the Cascades, by Steve Solomon

Maritime Northwest Garden Guide, by Seattle Tilth