

Soil Preparation

If your soil pH is between 5.5 and 7.0, no adjustment in pH needs to be made. However, in South Florida the pH ranges from 7.0 to 8.5 and you will need to improve your soil and its pH by bringing in topsoil or a soil mix, or by applying liberal amounts of organic material to the soil already present. Spade or plow the plot at least 3-4 weeks before planting. Then rework the soil into a fine firm, seedbed at planting time.

Adding Organic Matter

Various forms of organics such as animal manure, rotted leaves, compost, and cover crops should be thoroughly mixed into the soil well in advance of planting, preferably at least a month.

Fertilizers

Use a balanced time-release fertilizer such as 8-8-8 or 15-15-15. If the pH is above 6.3, micronutrients will be necessary. **Fertilize at planting, when the plants flower, and when the fruit is medium sized.** The fertilizer can be either broadcasted (spread by throwing) over the plot, or a line of fertilizer can be laid 2-3 inches on both sides of the plant row (banding). Follow the directions on the fertilizer label and consult **Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide¹ SP 103** publication for more specific instructions.

Irrigation and Drainage

In our dry months it will be necessary to provide irrigation to your vegetable plot. Hand watering or drip irrigation are two of the usual methods used to provide water to the garden plot. Making a small depression in the soil at the base of the plant will allow water to soak in where it is most needed. Using mulch and adding organic matter will also help conserve water. Normally watering 2-3 times weekly will be sufficient. Be sure to follow the water restrictions of your county.

Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide¹ SP 103

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/VH/VH02100.pdf>



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South Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide



Gardens may be planted year round in Florida, but fall is the preferred season in South Florida.

Garden placement is very important. Use the following key points to place your vegetable garden to increase your gardening success.

Garden Placement

- Full sun (6 hours of sun per day)
- Convenient to the house
- Level ground
- Good soil
- Well-drained area
- Clear of trees and shrubs
- Close to a water source

Planting Guide for South Florida Vegetables

January	February	March	April	May	June
Beets Broccoli Cabbage Carrots Cauliflower Collards Corn Chinese Cabbage Eggplant Endive English & Southern Peas Escarole Kohlrabi Lettuce Lima, Pole, & Bush Beans Mustard Onions Parsley Peppers Potatoes Radish Spinach Summer & Winter Squash Tomatoes Turnips	Beets Cantaloupes Carrots Collards Corn Cucumbers Eggplant English & Southern Peas Kohlrabi Lima, Pole, & Bush Beans Mustard Onions Okra Peppers Radish Summer & Winter Squash Sweet Corn Sweet Potatoes Tomatoes Turnips Watermelon	Cantaloupes Cucumbers Corn Lima, Pole, & Bush Beans Mustard Onions Okra Peas (Southern) Peppers Radish Summer Squash Sweet Potatoes Tomatoes Watermelon	Lima, Pole, & Bush Beans Sweet Potatoes Peas (Southern)	Black-Eyed Peas Sweet Potatoes Watermelon	Cassava Chayote Cherry Tomatoes Chinese Yams Malanga Pigeon Peas Pumpkin Sweet Potatoes
July	August	September	October	November	December
Cassava Chayote Malanga Summer Squash Yard Long Beans	Cantaloupes Carrots Collards Corn Eggplant Escarole Lima & Pole Beans Mustard Onions Okra Peppers Potatoes Radish Summer Spinach Summer Squash Tomatoes (larger fruit varieties) Watermelon	Broccoli Cabbage Cantaloupes Collards Corn Cucumber Eggplant Endive English & Southern Peas Lettuce Lima, Pole, & Bush Beans Onions Okra Parsley Peppers Potatoes Tomatoes (larger fruit varieties) Summer & Winter Squash Watermelon	Beets Broccoli Cabbage Carrots Cauliflower Collards Corn Cucumber Eggplant Endive English & Southern Peas Escarole Kohlrabi Lettuce Lima, Pole, & Bush Beans Mustard Onions Parsley Peppers Potatoes Radish Spinach Strawberries Summer Squash Tomatoes (larger fruit varieties) Turnips	Beets Broccoli Cabbage (regular & Chinese) Carrots Cauliflower Collards Corn Cucumber Eggplant Endive English & Southern Peas Escarole Kohlrabi Lettuce Lima, Pole, & Bush Beans Mustard Onions Parsley Peppers Potatoes Radish Spinach Strawberries Tomatoes (larger fruit varieties) Turnips	Beets Broccoli Cabbage (regular & Chinese) Carrots Cauliflower Collards Corn Cucumber Eggplant Endive English & Southern Peas Escarole Kohlrabi Lettuce Lima, Pole, & Bush Beans Mustard Onions Parsley Peppers Potatoes Radish Spinach Strawberries Tomatoes (larger fruit varieties) Turnips