

# BASIC VEGETABLE GARDEN PLANTING TIPS

Toledo GROWS Best Practices - Tending a Garden

## Prepare the soil and plants

- Remove all weeds
- Harden off plants: expose them to two days of morning or evening sun before planting. (see our Hardening and Mudding tip sheet for more information)
- Inspect plants for mold/mildew, root/stem rot, and bugs. Discard infected/infested plants to avoid introducing disease (which can live for years in the soil) or insects into your garden.

## Planting Plants

- Space plants for optimal health, growth, and easier maintenance. (see our Plant Spacing tip sheet)
- Dig a wider hole than each cell/pot and place the plant into the hole. Set the plant base at or slightly above the top of the hole.
- Mud the hole - alternate water and soil, filling the hole completely. (see our Hardening and Mudding tip sheet)
- Remove all blossoms and fruit. Deferring vegetables when the plant is small ensures a faster growing, healthier plant which produces more vegetables throughout the season.
- Use fertilizer carefully and sparingly around young, tender plants to avoid root and leaf burning. Use ¼ strength recommended on the label, making sure the soil is moist before applying. Apply to soil - not leaves. Follow directions on the label for application regarding temperature, time of day, etc.

## Maintenance

- Stake or cage upright plants, using materials that will support the plant's mature height and width.
- Mark plants with colorful ties to easily distinguish them from weeds.
- Water deeply once or twice a week - more if there are dry, hot conditions. Deeper watering encourages deeper rooting. (see our Vegetable Garden Watering tip sheet)
- Tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants will develop blossom end rot if the plants suffer periods of dryness during blossom set.
- Weed weekly –smaller weeds pull or hoe up quickly and easily because the root system is small. (see our Weed Management Strategies tip sheet)



## Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services.

**Toledo GROWS**  
900 Oneida St.  
Toledo, OH 43608

(419) 720-8714

Visit us on the web at  
[www.toledogrows.org](http://www.toledogrows.org)