



Planting and Caring For Vegetables in San Antonio

8 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT PLANTING VEGETABLES IN SAN ANTONIO

1. Sunshine: Most veggies need 10-12 hours of sunshine to grow and produce fruit successfully.

-No vegetable really wants shade, some are just more tolerable of it.

2. Soil: The better the soil, the better the results.

-[Garden soil enriched with organic matter](#) and compost that drains well should be offered at a depth of a minimum of 12” – 15” deep, and deeper is even better.

-All soil amendments (soil conditioner, compost, peat moss, etc., should be thoroughly tilled into the top 8”-10” of the soil.

-Soil needs to be free of competing weeds (hand pull or use a weed control product safe for edible gardens or within a period of time safe to use before planting your vegetable garden.

-We love [raised garden beds](#) for veggies.

-Many veggies can be grown in containers as well. Choose a premium potting soil to fill pots for container gardens.

3. Timing: Growing the correct veggies at the correct time of year is crucial to success during our short growing seasons in San Antonio.

-See “San Antonio, Texas Vegetable Seasons” at the bottom of this document, and check out our [VEGETABLE PLANTING CALENDAR](#)

4. Fertilizer: Mixing granular slow-release fertilizer into garden beds before planting, and watering in newly planted veggies with a water soluble fertilizer starts your vegetable transplants off right.

-High nitrogen fertilizers are recommended

-Always water fertilizer in thoroughly after applying, making sure no fertilizer is left the foliage as it can burn plant material.

5. Watering: Learning how to water correctly is of utmost importance for successful vegetable gardens.

-Avoid overhead watering. Plants need water around their roots. Disease and leaf scorch can happen when water is left on foliage.

-Always only water your garden on an as-need basis. You will need to learn how to do this by checking your vegetable garden daily and feeling the soil or by using a product called a water meter.

-Generally, when the top 2" of the soil are dry, you should water deeply around the roots, and then wait for the top 2" to dry before watering again.

-You will need to take in consideration any periods of heavy rainfall or extreme drought to make adjustments to the watering needs of your vegetables.

-Drip irrigation and soaker hoses are great for watering vegetable gardens.

7. Mulching: A 1"-2" layer of organic mulch applied around your vegetables will bring amazing benefits.

-Mulch conserves water in the soil, reduces weed growth, and moderates temperature of soil.

-Mulch reduces soil borne disease by reducing water splashing on foliage.

-Mulch keeps veggies directly off the soil preventing rot and blemishes and easy access to pests.

8. Pest Control/Disease Control: You will likely encounter pests or possible disease while growing vegetables.

-While some problems are inevitable due to nature and weather, many pest and disease issues can be avoided by simply following correct planting recommendations, choosing recommended vegetable varieties, and watering correctly.

-It is important to identify the type of pest and disease that develop in order to get the correct control product or method.

-You also need to be sure that any product you choose is safe to spray on edibles.

-Always read labels completely before applying any product

-There are many products to choose from, both organic and synthetic. You can access our pest and disease pages on our website Learning Center or come in to the nursery to discuss your pest problems.

San Antonio, Texas Vegetable Seasons

San Antonio offers 2 main vegetable growing seasons, spring and fall. However, because of our mild climate, you could possibly be harvesting vegetables from your garden any of the 365 days of the year!

1. In spring (warm season veggie growing begins mid to late Feb and runs up to November):

-Early spring: Tomatoes get planted very early (mid February usually with protection from late freeze at the ready) so they can [set fruit before the heat](#) of summer stops them from producing.

- Other early spring veggies are carrots and beets (planted by seed), lettuces (will bolt and go to seed once it gets too hot)

-After that, more warm weather veggies like peppers, cucumbers, summer squash, zucchini, green beans, okra, melons, etc., can be planted throughout spring.

2. In fall, (cool season veggie growing begins mid August and runs to May)

-Once again [tomatoes get planted early](#) (mid August and no later than Sept 15th with protection from the summer sun) but this time it is so they can set fruit in time for harvest before the first freeze.

-After that you get what we call “second spring planting” when you can plant a second round of all the warm weather veggies, some of which were listed above.

-Once the weather has truly cooled in fall, winter crops can be planted like: Broccoli, Cauliflower, Cabbages, Spinach, Onions, Mustards and other greens, Brusselsprouts, Artichokes, etc., all throughout winter.

PLEASE SEE OUR [VEGETABLE PLANTING CALENDAR](#) FOR THE BEST RANGE OF DATES TO PLANT VEGETABLES IN SAN ANTONIO

For annual recommended varieties of vegetables, be sure to access the [TAMU Agrilife Extension](#) website, where you can enter your county or region for vegetable recommendations.