



# Coffee & Garden Talk

Saturday March 6, 2021  
9:00 – 10:30 AM  
ZOOM

# Coffee & Garden Talk

- 1) Welcome and introductions
- 2) A Tour of the Gardens
- 3) Our Physical space
- 4) Crop and Plant Selection
- 5) Starting Our Plants
- 6) New website preview
- 7) Wrap-up and close



# A Tour of the Gardens



Drone photo courtesy of Luke Mann

- **Green** plots: Currently available and being filled for 2021 from a waitlist
- **Yellow** plots: Wilmot and EHS
- **Wilmot's Green Team** will garden plots 22 and 23
- EHS will have a combined **xeriscape** and **tasting** bed (21)
- Plot 26 will be our **pumpkin** patch
- **Lavender** plots: Perennial beds
- **Hiwan Museum** will garden plot 29





# Garden Features



Markers for educational beds built and painted by volunteers



Bracing for a late season snowstorm in 2021



Colorful plant pots, planted and cared for by volunteers



Children's play area, created and decorated by volunteers



Tool cubbies in the shed



School construction workers pouring a concrete apron around the brick patio



The Little Library for the schoolkids, built and painted by volunteers



Kids from an EPRD summer class having fun cleaning up the sandbox



Personalized memorial bricks, a volunteer project, \$100 donation per brick



Volunteering is more than just pulling weeds!



# Volunteers make the world go 'round!!



Drone photo courtesy of Luke Mann

## **ECHO Food Bank**

Sharing our bounty with the community weekly during the harvest season. We're looking for a volunteer coordinator!



## **2021 Season Volunteer Signup**

- ☐ Plant and tend large plant pots (5)
- ☐ Tend perennial beds (4)
- ☐ Tend entry pergola beds
- ☐ Water trees and shrubs
- ☐ Help with pumpkin patch, xeriscape and tasting beds
- ☐ Maintain the brick patio
- ☐ Water grasses around sand pit
- ☐ Weed whacking inside and out
- ☐ Maintain play areas
- ☐ Trash pickup, inside and out
- ☐ Haul away trash bags
- ☐ Sweep and maintain inside of shed



Log your volunteer hours in the notebook on the back of the shed door, or on Google Sheets!





# OUR PHYSICAL SPACE



- 1) Soil and soil testing
- 2) Compost
- 3) Fertilizer and other nutrients
- 4) Water system and equipment
- 5) Watering
- 6) Tools and equipment
- 7) Growing structures
- 8) Pest control

# Soil



- Original soil mixture used to fill the plots was not optimum
- Amendment with **compost, fertilizer, sand** and **other nutrients** on a regular basis is necessary to maintain a productive growing medium
- Soil testing available thru CSU Soil, Water and Plant Testing Laboratory ~\$40



<http://www.soiltestinglab.colostate.edu/index.html>





# Soil Testing



## SUGGESTED INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING SOIL SAMPLES

*Taking a good soil sample is vital to obtaining useful laboratory results.*

### Please use the following steps to submit soil samples:

1. A soil sample may be taken at any time of the year, although spring and fall are usually the most convenient times. Avoid soil sampling within 30 days of an application of nitrogen fertilizer, compost or manure.
2. A soil sample should represent a uniform area consisting of land that is similar in slope, drainage, texture, or other characteristics that make the soil the same. Submit a separate sample for each area that receives different fertilizer, amendments and/or soil management treatments. For example, garden areas are managed differently from lawns, so the garden should be sampled separately from the lawn. Different garden beds, or different yard areas, that receive differing amounts of fertilizers, soil amendments or irrigation should also be sampled separately.
3. Use a clean, dry composite of 5. Collect these 5 down, rather than about the same.
4. Mix the sample and, if possible, moist samples.
5. Place the soil in a label the sample "Lawn2", etc.), the package.
6. If multiple sam in interpreting!
7. Complete the separate form.
8. Mail sample(s) Soil, Water an Colorado Stat 1120 Campus Fort Collins CO
9. Please keep a Keeping samp
10. You may pay i Invoice is requ like to pay by c
11. The lab DOES
12. If you have ad Extension Age

### COMMENTS:

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2. Different labor necessarily m that same nur essentially the Your soil test i may have obs over- or unde varieties, or bi

pH: 7.6

pH is High. pH 6 to 7.2 is the preferred pH range for growth of most plants, but most plants tolerate this higher pH with little problem.

Electrical Conductivity or Salts: 0.9 mmhos/cm

E.C. is Low. When E.C. less than 2.0, salinity is not a problem for plant growth.

Lime: Low

Low: Lime is less than 1% in the soil. Plants can still grow well at this lime level.

Texture Estimate: Loam

This soil will drain at a medium to low rate which may allow it to retain water more efficiently.

Sodium Absorption Ratio:

This value not requested.

Organic Material: 7.2 %

Plant Type: Vegetable Garden

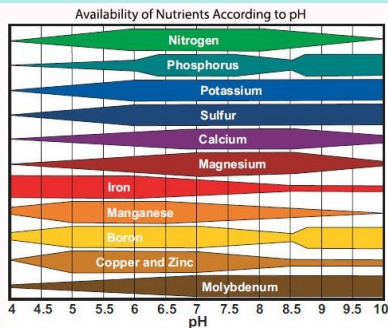
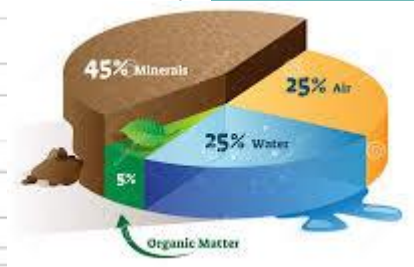
Organic Matter is High; no additional OM e.g. compost is needed. You don't need to build up the OM content of this soil beyond existing levels, but rather focus on protecting and replenishing the OM content e.g. by using organic mulch. Also consider a fall-planted cover crop to be used as a green manure.

Nitrate: 71 ppm

Nitrate-nitrogen is very high. Additional nitrogen is not needed at this time. Excessive nitrogen may cause bushy plants with small fruit. Early planting in the spring will help make use of the additional nitrogen to allow plants to produce more flowers and develop larger fruit. Trees may not flower as expected. Very high nitrogen at mid season may result in bushy plants with small fruit.

Phosphorus: 271.3 ppm

Phosphorus is High; No additional Phosphorus is needed.



**Soil test report Plot 26 2017**



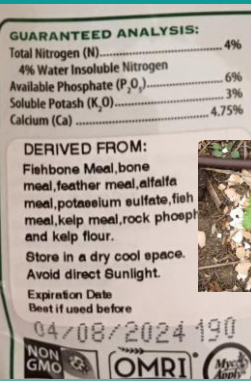
# Compost



- Helps transform the clay soil into a productive growing soil.
- Provides humus, organic material, beneficial bacteria and micro-organisms to help the plant grow.
- Improves drainage, allow roots to spread and make the soil easier to work.
- Compost pile behind shed.
- Use 3-5 wheelbarrow loads annually.
- Best to apply at the end of the season, leave on top or till slightly, then work into the soil to 6" before spring planting. Spring OK, too.
- **Rototiller** available in shed



# Fertilizer and Other Nutrients

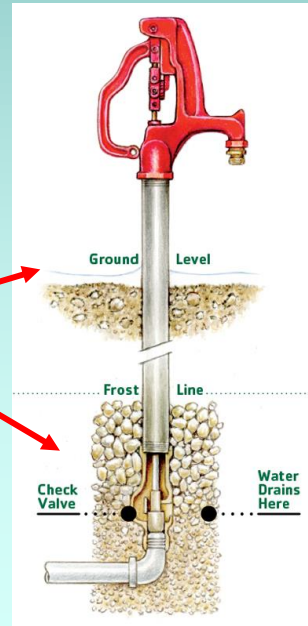


- **ORGANIC:** Well-rotted seed-free manure, bone meal, cottonseed, fish meal.
- **INORGANIC:** Manufactured products with Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (Ph) and Potassium (K).
- Choose one with Ph = 2X the N and K, for example 10-20-10 or 12-24-12.
- Granular application: broadcast after compost in fall or before planting in the spring. Work into top 3-4" of soil.
- **SOIL pH LEVEL:** Target 6.0 – 7.0, ours is 6.7 pH meter in shed.
- If too low (acidic) apply calcium granules, finely ground limestone, wood ash, egg shells.
- If too high (alkaline) apply gypsum, ground sulfur or compost.
- **pH tester** in shed





# Water System and Equipment



Watch for dripping hydrants, hydrants left running, ponding around the base of the pipes. Notify Mr Beez immediately.

- **Public water** supplied and paid for by the school. **ON** in early May, **OFF** end of October.
- Back up supply **1500 gallons** in two tanks. One on loan and sponsored by **Lam Tree** and **Denver Fire Rescue**. About 4-6 days supply.
- Water every 1-3 days. Plan to water every other day, depending on recent heat and rain.
- **Moisture meter** in shed.
- Buried drip system serves the perennial beds. On timer.
- Periodic water outages! If water is off, call Mr Beez to report.



# Watering



Use a  
rain  
gauge!



- Most people water by hand. Hoses, watering cans and sprayers on the fence and in the shed. Most people have their own equipment. No dripping hoses in the shed, please!
- Ask for help with watering when you're away.
- Recommend collapsible hose vs the rigid plastic ones. Also the long, telescoping wands. No sprinklers.
- Can install your own drip or soaker system.
- **Volunteers** will be needed for the trees, shrubs, grasses bordering the sand area and the big plant pots.



# Tools and Equipment



best for turning soil



- Lots of tools in the shed. Put your name on yours. Clean the tools and replace them where you found them.
- Store your small tools and stuff in the cardboard storage bins in the shed. Don't overfill, no heavy bulky things, no hoses, please!
- Bag your cuttings - **no trash, no soil**. Don't overfill with heavy stuff. When full, tie the bags and take home, or stack on the pallets.
- **Tool tips:** sturdy garden fork for turning soil, scissors, metal hand tools, a small knife, dandelion eradication tools, rain gauge.



# Growing Structures



- Necessary to support heavy or viney plants, especially tomatoes, pole beans, peas and squash (not zucchini or pumpkins!). Also some bushy plants like bush beans.
- Uses limited plot space more effectively, **grow up not out!** Choose pole beans vs bush beans, climbing peas vs bush peas.
- **Cages, Trellises, Stakes.** Many different styles and materials, easy to build. Strong and tall enough, spaces to reach through.
- **Hoop Huts.** Protects sensitive plants from hail damage. You can transplant earlier and extend the harvest season, usually by a couple weeks on both ends.
- **Edging.** Useful to separate plants and restrict their spread. Also, use along the inside of the side boards to retain soil and water.

## Margaret Rode's Hoop Hut Recipe

Covers 5x10' area. Can build 4-5' tall.  
PVC pipe, metal conduit, rebar, plastic sheeting, zip ties. Ask Mr Beez!





# Pest Control



**Vole  
(meadow mouse)**



**Pocket gopher**



**Field mouse  
(deer mouse)**



**Vole tunnels**



**Gopher mounds**

**Be watchful!**  
If you see signs of  
rodents – holes,  
mounds, tunnels –  
call Mr Beez!

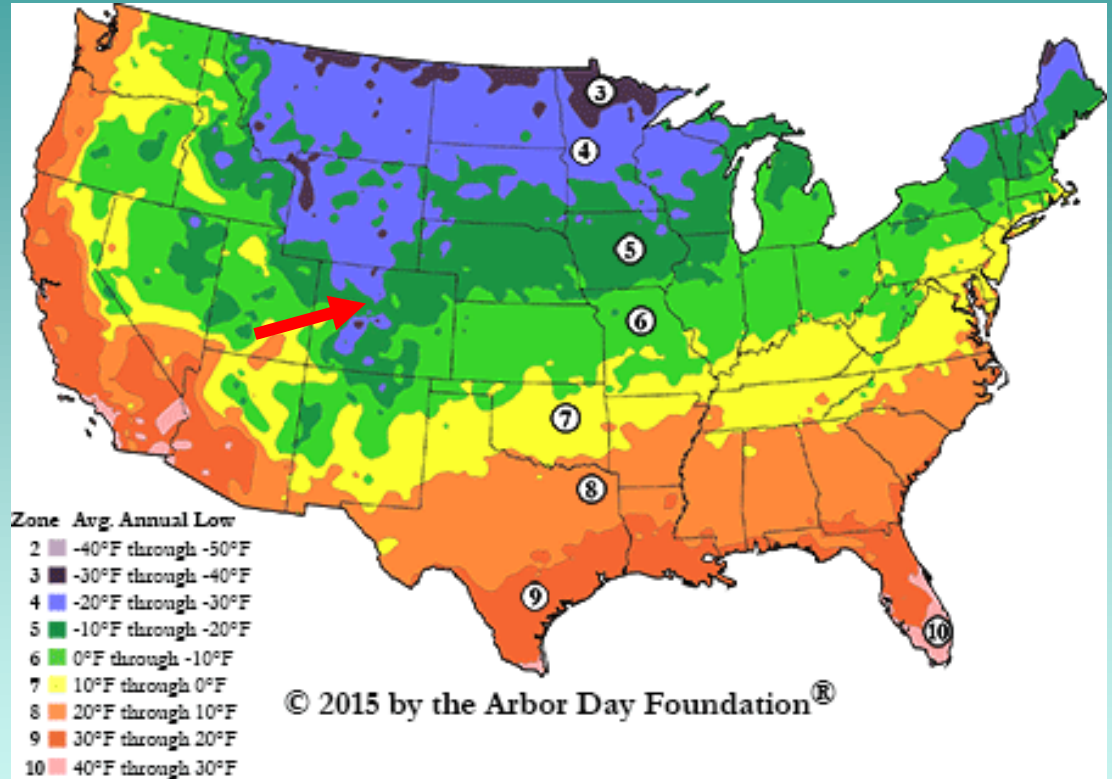
# Crop and Plant Selection

- 1) What to grow?
- 2) Plot layout: Arrangement
- 3) Plot layout: Spacing
- 4) Plot layout: Flowers
- 5) Companion planting

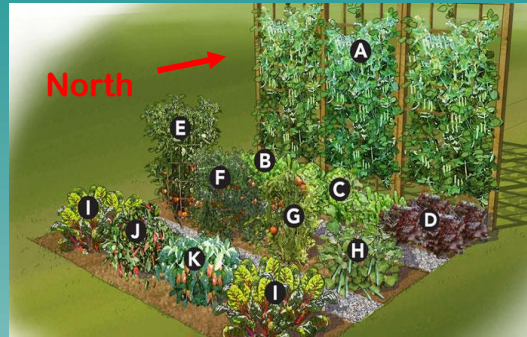


# What to grow??

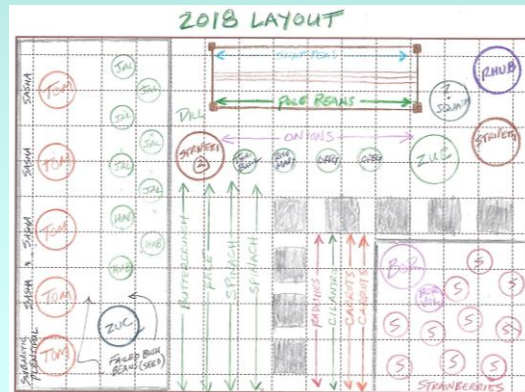
- Grow what you enjoy eating!
- Choose crops suited to our region's climate and growing conditions.
- We have a short growing season, mid-May until mid-October at best.
- Individual varieties have different days to maturity, drought and heat tolerances.
- We are in **Hardiness Zone 4/5**.
- Read the plant tags and seed packages for more info.



# Plot layout: Arrangement

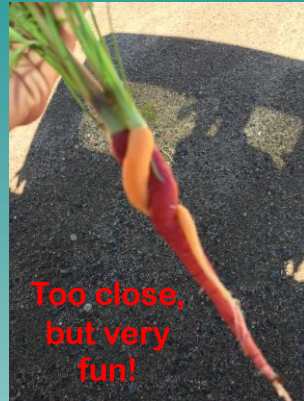


- Be creative! Have fun! Decorate!
- Grow tall plants on the north side so as not to shade the short crops.
- Allow adequate space to access plants in the center of the plot. Use pavers, flagstone, boards to help define the pathways.
- Some perennial fruits and veggies will require several years in one patch to reach their full productivity. Strawberries, asparagus, other?
- Some perennials will re-seed and grow voluntarily. Anticipate! Chives, spinach, other?





# Plot layout: Spacing



- Follow guidelines for plant and row spacing. Allow for later thinning.
- **Don't overcrowd!** When grown too close together, plant roots will compete for sunlight, water and nutrients, stunting their growth.



Moose-chini



Just weird

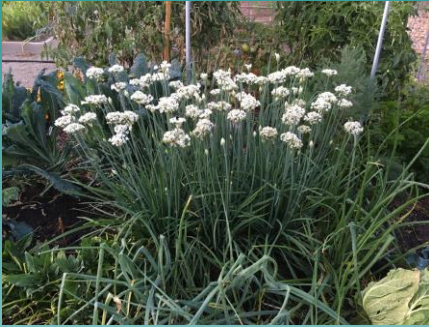
## Plant Spacing Guide

Vegetable	Spacing Between Plants	Spacing Between Rows
<a href="#">Alfalfa</a>	6"-12" (15-30 cm.)	35"-40" (90-100 cm.)
<a href="#">Amaranth</a>	1"-2" (2.5-5 cm.)	1"-2" (2.5-5 cm.)
<a href="#">Artichokes</a>	18" (45 cm.)	24"-36" (60-90 cm.)
<a href="#">Asparagus</a>	12" - 18" (30-45 cm.)	60" (150 cm.)
<a href="#">Beans - Bush</a>	2" - 4" (5-10 cm.)	18" - 24" (45-60 cm.)
<a href="#">Beans - Pole</a>	4" - 6" (10-15 cm.)	30" - 36" (75-90 cm.)
<a href="#">Beets</a>	3" - 4" (7.5-10 cm.)	12" - 18" (30-45 cm.)
<a href="#">Black Eyed Peas</a>	2" - 4" (5-10 cm.)	30" - 36" (75-90 cm.)
<a href="#">Bok Choy</a>	6" - 12" (15-30 cm.)	18" - 30" (45-75 cm.)
<a href="#">Broccoli</a>	18" - 24" (45-60 cm.)	36" - 40" (75-100 cm.)





# Plot layout: Flowers



- Include annuals and perennials, as bee attractors and for added beauty!
- Intersperse perennials with veggies susceptible to infestation. Can help “hide” the veggie foliage and confuses the pests.





# Companion planting

<b>CUCUMBERS</b>  Beans, Celery, Corn, Peas, Lettuce, Dill, Radishes	<b>CARROTS</b>  Tomatoes, Leeks, Sage, Rosemary, Chives	<b>GREEN BEANS</b>  Corn, Summer Savory, Peas, Broccoli, Cucumbers, Brussels Sprouts, Potatoes, Radishes	<b>RADISHES</b>  Cucumbers, Carrots, Kale, Beets, Cabbage, Lettuce, Spinach, Squash
<b>SWEET CORN</b>  Green Beans, Cucumbers, Peas, Pumpkins, Melons, Zucchini	<b>Handy Guide To Companion Planting</b> Friends helping friends in the garden!		<b>PEPPERS</b>  Basil, Onions, Spinach, Tomatoes
<b>LETTUCE</b>  Mint, Chives, Garlic, Beans, Beets, Broccoli, Carrots, Corn, Peas, Radishes	<b>ONIONS</b>  Carrots, Beets, Cabbage, Carrots, Lettuce, Parsnips, Tomatoes	<b>SQUASH</b>  Corn, Beans, Peas, Radishes, Dill	<b>TOMATOES</b>  Basil, Asparagus, Carrots, Celery, Onions, Lettuce, Parsley, Spinach



- **Companion planting.** The practice of growing certain plants alongside each other in order to reap the benefits of their complementary characteristics, such as their water and nutrient growth requirements, growth habits, or pest-repelling abilities.
- Some plants are incompatible and will stunt each other's growth when planted together.
- Consider grouping plants with similar water and sunlight needs together, even alternating in the same row!

Companion Planting

OneCreativeMommy.com

	Basil	Beans	Broccoli	Carrots	Cauliflower	Chives	Cilantro	Corn	Cucumbers	Dill	Garlic	Leeks	Lettuce	Marigold	Melon	Nasturtium	Onion	Oregano	Parsley	Peas	Peppers	Rosemary	Sage	Spinach	Squash	Strawberries	Sunflowers	Swiss Chard	Thyme	Tomatoes
Basil																														
Beans																														
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Cilantro																														
Corn																														
Cucumber																														
Dill																														
Garlic																														
Leeks																														

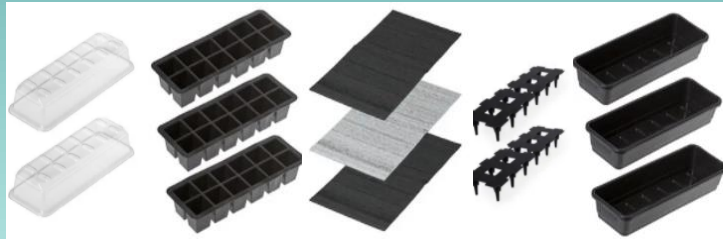


# Starting Our Plants

- 1) Options for starting plants
- 2) Timing: Soil temperature
- 3) Timing: Climate and Weather



# Options for starting plants: Seeds and seedlings



- Direct-sow seeds in-ground
- Start seeds at home and transplant
- Buy and transplant seedlings
- Cuttings
- **Sources:** Nurseries, hardware and grocery stores, catalogs, online.
- Pay attention to **SELL BY** date!
- **Seed Swap.** Seeds from Botanical Interests and other gardeners. Also try Park Seed, Burpee, Miss Penn, Seeds Trust.
- **Seed starting.** Access to more varieties, find info and equipment online. Therapeutic and saves a little \$\$!



# Starting Plants From Cuttings



## - Things we've tried at BPCG:

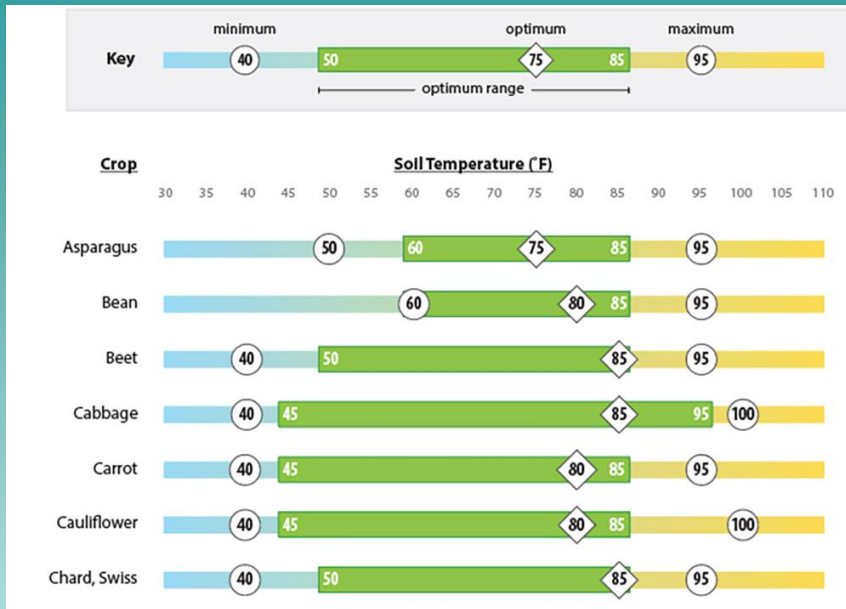
Strawberries, garlic, onions, oregano, rosemary, rhubarb, potatoes, other?

## - Try these sometime:

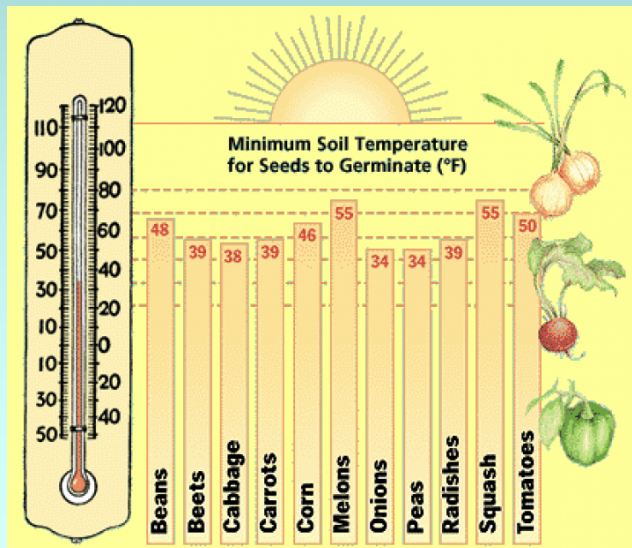
Tomatoes, pumpkins, zucchini, cucumber, garlic, onions, nasturtiums, romaine lettuce, cabbage, carrot greens, onion and garlic greens, bok choy, ginger, leeks, potatoes, celery, beet greens.



# Timing: Soil temperature



- **Indoor seeds:** late March – early April
- **Direct-sown seeds:** early May onward
- **Seedlings:** late May thru mid-June
- Soil temperature is a key factor in choosing when to plant anything. See charts.
- **Soil thermometer** in the shed. Anyone can check regularly and post temp to whiteboard, website and/or Facebook.



# Timing: Climate and weather

## Zone 4 Vegetable Planting Guide



Start Seeds Indoors				Plant Seed/Transplant							Harvest		
JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC		
					Beans								
				Beets			Beets						
			Broccoli				Broccoli						
				Brussel Sprouts									
				Cabbage									
			Carrots				Carrots						
				Cauliflower									
				Corn									
				Cucumber									
			Kale				Kale						
			Lettuce				Lettuce						
			Onions										
			Peas										
			Peppers										
			Spinach				Spinach						
				Squash									
				Tomato									

- The earlier you plant, the greater risk of damage from frost or freezing.
- **Average Last Frost Date – June 10**  
Most planting recommendations are relative to ALFD, e.g. two weeks before ALFD, one week after ALFD.
- Pay attention to current local weather forecast.
- Transplant seedlings in the evening.
- Cover your seeds and seedlings with straw or mulch.
- Plan to protect the young plants, especially immediately after transplanting. Buckets, milk jugs, boxes, wall-of-water, etc.





# Our New Website!



[www.BuffaloParkCommunityGarden.com](http://www.BuffaloParkCommunityGarden.com)

[Home](#) [Blog](#) [About Us](#) [More](#)



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## GET GROWING WITH BUFFALO PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN

an organic and sustainable community space

[Learn More](#)



# Coffee & Garden Talk

**Saturday April 10, 2021**

**9:00 – 10:30 AM**

**ZOOM**

Join us for a roundtable discussion of plant specific selection and growing information and tips and techniques for caring for our gardens!