GROW GREAT VEGETABLES in our COOL COASTAL CLIMATE

PRACTICAL IDEAS FOR SUCCESS

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GOAL: UNDERSTAND THE BASICS

Climate
Sun Exposure
Protection
Soil Type
Nutrients
Amendments

Pests
‘Friendlies’
Diseases
Prevention
Management
Interplant flowers!

What to grow?
What will grow
Varieties
Starting Seeds
Buying Seedlings
Transplants
COASTAL CLIMATE CHALLENGES...

FOG
WIND
RAIN
DRIZZLE
HAIL
LOW LIGHT
COOL DAYS
COLD NIGHTS
FROST
VEGETABLES MUST HAVE:

FULL SUN

EIGHT (8) HOURS

A DAY!

BOTTOM LINE, NO SUN..... NO VEGETABLES!
LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

Avoid shade!
Observe sun... through the day, and the seasons.
Be aware of trees and buildings.
Find sunny spots.
Locate warm microclimates.
What IS a micro-climate?

* NO VEGETABLES GROW IN SHADE!
PROTECT YOUR GARDEN!

Build a fence.
Plant a hedge.
Break the wind.
Keep invaders out!
RAISED BEDS will CONTAIN your SOIL

Beds drain quickly.
Soil warms up faster.
Preserves nutrients.
Saves money on amendments.
Limits soil compaction.
Easy to add a cloche!
SOME VEGETABLES need to be a bit WARMER!

Low or High Tech! Many choices to protect your plants: Bell Jars, Floating Row Covers, Hoop tunnels, A cloche, or a Greenhouse......
DO YOU NEED A CLOCHE?

Do you like (LOVE!) TOMATOES?
Peppers?
Basil?
Eggplant?
And so much more.
YES! YES! YES!
LET'S TALK ABOUT DIRT........
(OOPS, SOIL)

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT SOIL........
Anchors plants.
Holds water.
Stores nutrients.
Made of rotted rocks and decaying plant matter.
It’s alive with micro-organisms.
Vegetables.....
MUST HAVE good soil!!
Worms love good soil.
AMENDMENTS can IMPROVE SOIL

Sphagnum peat
Coir (coco fiber)
Leaves
Grass clippings
Forest Humus
Worm Castings
Kelp Meal
Lime
Perlite
Vermiculite

GET A soil pH test.
Build good soil.
Grow great vegetables!
NUTRIENTS and FERTILIZERS


Organic is always derived from once living plants or animals.

Chemical or commercial fertilizer is made of single ingredients or compounded chemicals.

Plants don’t care! The choice is YOURS.

Organics feed the soil micro-organisms.

Chemical is generally quick release, fast food for plants.

READ THE LABEL.

What is OMRI, and why should you care?

The Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) is an international nonprofit organization that determines which input products are allowed for use in organic production and processing. OMRI Listed® products are allowed for use in certified organic operations under the USDA National Organic Program.

See “Fertilizing your Garden” OSU Pub. ec1503.pdf.
HELP! MY PLANTS DON’T LOOK RIGHT

Plants don’t look like the catalog photos?
Are leaves yellow, purple?
Did you prepare the soil before you planted?
Use good amendments?
Have you added a balanced fertilizer?
Diagnosing and correcting nutrient deficiencies.
Look at your plants frequently!

VEGETABLES NEED HIGHER FERTILITY THAN ORNAMENTALS

[Diagram showing signs of nutrient deficiency]
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO GROW...?

Crops best outside: root crops, potatoes, greens, cole crops, peas, beans, summer squash, onions, leeks and garlic. Warm season crops that need warmth: tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, eggplant. Some crops more suitable for inland gardeners: corn, pumpkins, winter squash. The don’t bother group: watermelon, sweet potatoes, cantaloupes, okra.

WHERE do you LIVE?
Close to the ocean?
A mile inland?
Several miles?
Can you build a cloche or greenhouse?
How hard do you want to work?
HOW TO SHOP FOR SEEDS

Choose seeds from a reputable vendor, seeds should be guaranteed. Cheap grocery store seeds may not be the best choice. Read the variety information carefully. Beware of glowing descriptions. Seed shopping is a learning experience!
Suitability for our climate and your location.

Hybrid, Open Pollinated (OP), or Heirloom?

Organic or Conventional.

Size, culture, days to maturity, disease resistance.

READ EVERY WORD OF A VARIETY DESCRIPTION.
STARTING SEEDS

First, read the instructions
Some vegetables need direct sowing.
Always use a good seed starting soil!
Use a heat mat for most seeds. A digital thermostat is a wise addition.
Water carefully, don’t dislodge seeds or saturate the soil.
After all seeds are up, move seedlings off heat to a cooler place with very bright light.
LABEL EACH CONTAINER, nobody likes SURPRISES!
WHY GROW TRANSPLANTS?

HUGE variety Selection.
Get a jump start on early planting.
Transplants are ready when you are.
Better spacing, for easier cultivation.
Read the cultural instructions.
Crops difficult to transplant: carrots, parsnips, spinach, radish, root crops.
BUYING VEGETABLE SEEDLINGS

Look for plants with good color.
Check plants for insects or disease.
Avoid overgrown or blooming plants.
Choose stocky plants in a ‘right size’ pot.
Plants in flats in a parking lot may be cold, hungry or in shock.
Shop in a covered, protected garden center.

LCMGA MASTER GARDENER
SPRING GARDEN SALE MAY 18, 2019
ALL PLANTS GROWN BY MEMBERS
PESTS........WHO’S WHO?

Can you identify these critters?
Are these pests, or good guys?
Know your enemy!
Don’t kill until you know!!
BENEFICIAL INSECTS, the Good Guys!

Bumble Bees, my favorites!
Honey Bees
Butterflies
Paper Wasps
Dragonflies
Mantids
Cinnabar moth.....
Spiders
Ground beetles
Snakes
HOW TO ATTRACT BENEFICIALS?
INTERPLANT FLOWERS AND HERBS!

Feed them... interplant flowers.

Compositae family.

Herbs, annual and perennial.

What about Natives?

Beneficial insects includes predators.
OMG! WHAT’S WRONG WITH MY PLANTS?

Diseases can be frustrating!
Hard to identify!
Difficult to treat!
PREVENTION and TREATMENT

Be proactive, look at your plants frequently, under leaves too.
Don’t water overhead.
Destroy any diseased plants.
Clean up the garden in fall.
Don’t be afraid to dig it up.
Use the PNWs, and always use science based information!
My Favorite websites:
UC-(University of California)
IPM:http://ipm.ucanr.edu/index.html
Cornell Vegetable MG Online
http://vegetablemdonline.ppath.cornell.edu/index.html
BEST VEGETABLE GROUPS for OUR COASTAL CLIMATE

Root Crops
Brassicas
Greens
Alliums
Potatoes
Peas
Beans
Squash
Cucumbers
Peppers
Tomatoes
ROOT CROPS, most are EASY
BRASSICAS, CRUCIFERS, COLES
BROCCOLI, CABBAGE, CAULIFLOWER and MORE
GREENS for SALAD or STIR FRY
THE ALLIUM FAMILY
ONIONS, SHALLOTS, LEEKS & GARLIC
POTATOES, BURIED TREASURES

Love our climate!
Easy to grow.
THE LEGUMES: PEAS AND BEANS
ONE BIG HAPPY FAMILY OF MANY COUSINS
CUCUMBERS are COOL!

A Word to remember: PARTHENOCARPIC

“the ability to set or produce fruit without “pollinization”
PEPPERS, SOME LIKE THEM HOT.

GROW THEM LIKE TOMATOES!
TOMATOES
TOMATOES: ISSUES & ANSWERS