Vegetable Gardens, Hugelkultur, and Wicking Beds

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City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department

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City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department

Zilker Botanical Garden
Austin Area Garden Center
Vegetable Gardening Methods

- Garden Templates
- Companion Planting
- Square Foot Gardening
- Double-Dig Method
- Hugelkultur
- Ollas
- Wicking Beds
Types of Veggie Garden Beds

- Elevated beds - may be ideal for seniors and ADA access
- In-ground plots using existing soil
- Raised beds with wooden frames, 4’ x 8’
- Container gardening
Garden Templates

• Can help you map out what you want where in advance
• Great for school gardens, church gardens

[Diagram of Garden Templates]

http://thedemogarden.org/garden-templates/
Garden Templates

Kitchen Garden PLANNER

Design Your Row or Bed  Design Your Site Map

Your Garden Name

1. Select your size:
   Width: 3 ▼ Length: 6 ▼

2. Drag and drop item onto bed

   - bok choy
   - broccoli
   - brussels sprouts
   - cabbage
   - carrot
   - celery
   - chives
   - cilantro

http://www.gardeners.com/on/demandware.store/Sites-Gardeners-Site/default/Page-KGPJS
Gardener’s Supply Company
# Garden Resources

## Vegetable Garden Planting Guide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plant Name</th>
<th>JAN</th>
<th>FEB</th>
<th>MAR</th>
<th>APR</th>
<th>MAY</th>
<th>JUN</th>
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Plants grown in winter will benefit from protection during freezing weather. Plants grown in late summer will benefit from shade cover during establishment. Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age or national origin. The Texas A&M System, USDA and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas cooperating. January 2012
Companion Planting

Compatible pairings:

• Beans with cucumber, peas, and lettuce
• Broccoli with onion
• Cauliflower with celery
• Eggplant and spinach
• Leeks with carrots
• Lettuce with strawberries or radishes
• Onions with bell pepper
• Potatoes with sweet corn
• Squash with sweet corn
• Swiss chard with onions

Incompatible pairings to avoid:

• Asparagus and garlic
• Beans and onions
• Beets and beans
• Broccoli and beans
• Cabbage and strawberries
• Carrots and celery
• Corn and tomatoes
• Onions and peas
• Potatoes and tomatoes

Marigolds repel Mexican bean beetles, squash bugs, thrips, tomato hornworms, whiteflies, and nematodes!
Waterwise Gardening Methods
Drought Restrictions: Alternative Compliance for Vegetable Gardening

- Austin City Code now allows an exemption to drought restrictions that permits watering of vegetable gardens using:
  - Hand watering
  - Soaker hoses
  - Drip irrigation

- NO sprinklers, no unattended watering of veggie gardens
Hugelkultur

- Essentially, making raised garden beds filled with rotting wood
- Use up rotting wood, twigs, branches and even whole trees that would otherwise go to the dump or be burned
- Avoid using cedar, walnut or other tree species deemed allelopathic.

Hugelkultur

Source: http://www.permaculture.co.uk
Hugelkultur Basic Steps

- Select area approx. 6 feet by 3 feet
- Gather material:
  - fallen logs, branches, fallen leaves
  - nitrogen-rich material (kitchen waste/manure)
  - top soil
  - mulching material (such as straw)
- First layer: logs
- Second layer: branches, twigs (roughly til it’s 3 feet high)
- Water these layers
- Fill in the space between with leaf litter, manure, kitchen scraps
- Top off the bed with 1-2 inches of top soil and a layer of mulch
Ollas

- Porous clay pot buried in the ground with neck exposed
- Water 1-2 times per week
- Water seeps into soil at slow rate so nearby plants have a constant root-level water source
- Low tech, low cost irrigation
- Dry soil surface = less weeds, less compaction!
Ollas - Spacing

Source: permaculturenews.org
Wicking Bed Construction

Location: Zilker Botanical Garden
Wicking Bed Construction – Sand Base

Location: Zilker Botanical Garden
Wicking Bed Construction – Pond Liner
Wicking Bed Construction – Pipe Covered with Pea Gravel
Wicking Bed Construction – 2\textsuperscript{nd} Layer Filter Fabric
Wicking Bed Construction – Compost
Gardening and Wicking Bed Free Resources

Dillo Dirt
City of Austin Water Utility http://www.austintexas.gov/dillodirt
Free Dillo Dirt for projects with non-profits, parks, and schools. Offered by the dump truck load. Must pick up from Hornsby Bend Biosolids Management Plant located at 2210 South FM 973 Austin, TX 78725.
Contact: Jody Slagle (512) 972-1954 Jody.Slagle@austintexas.gov

Free Seeds, Seedlings, and Compost
http://www.sustainablefoodcenter.org/GL_harvest.html
Participate in Sustainable Food Center’s Spread the Harvest food sharing program and receive seeds, seedlings, and compost for your garden. Contact Grow Local at
Contact: (512) 236-0074 x 105

Free Woodchips
City of Austin Resource Recovery Center
Free mulch is available to the public at the City of Austin Landfill on a first-come, first-served basis. Please bring pitchforks, bags and shovels to load the mulch yourself.
Contact: 3810 Todd Lane Austin, TX 78744. (512) 974-4373
Monday - Friday; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Closed Saturday and Sunday

Burlap Sacks:
Contact a coffee shop near you. Many are willing to donate their old burlap sacks.
Grow Local Classes in the Teaching Garden

Gardening workshops in our on-site garden that promise participants of all levels a hands-on experience exploring home food gardening topics!

Prices start at just $12!

For more information and to register: http://www.sustainablefoodcenter.org/grow-local/upcoming-classes

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<tr>
<th>Class:</th>
<th>Date:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Get Growing: Soil Health &amp; Composting</td>
<td>Sept 3, 2014</td>
<td>6:00 pm – 7:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deep Roots: Raised Bed Construction</td>
<td>Sept 13, 2014</td>
<td>10:00 am – 12:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Get Growing: Plan Your Fall Garden</td>
<td>Oct 8, 2014</td>
<td>6:00 pm – 7:30 pm</td>
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<td>Deep Roots: Rain Gardens</td>
<td>Oct 18, 2014</td>
<td>10:00 am – 12:30 pm</td>
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<td>“Just Seeds”: Seed Saving Basics</td>
<td>Oct 23, 2014</td>
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<td>Get Growing: Fall Pests &amp; Diseases</td>
<td>Nov 8, 2014</td>
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<td>Dec 3, 2014</td>
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<td>Get Growing: Container Gardening</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deep Roots: Fruit Tree Care</td>
<td>Dec 6, 2014</td>
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Steps to make it happen

• Create inventory of tools and garden items
• Create seed bank inventory
• Purchase more seeds and tools
• Set up lending agreement and terms
• Set February seed distribution date and place
• Create promotional material around resource hub and distribution days

THANK YOU!
Any questions?

Special thanks to:
Cullen Finnegan, PARD (wicking bed expert)
Liz McVeety, PARD

Please visit the wicking bed at Zilker Botanical Garden, and the hugelkultur beds at Blackshear Community Garden!

Recommended Books:
How to Grow More Vegetables, John Jeavons
The New Central Texas Gardener, Cheryl Hazeltine & Barry Lovelace
BREAK – Visit the Zen Garden

Before

After
BREAK – Visit the Zen Garden

Designed by Patrick Beyer, City of Austin