Alternative Gardening and Watering Methods

Grow Green Professional Landscape Training
February 24, 2015

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Zilker Botanical Garden  
Austin Area Garden Center
Vegetable Gardening Methods

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

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

- Divide growing area into small square sections to plant intensively with different plants in each square
Double-Dig Method

For a well-drained bed with deep, loose soil...

- Remove the topsoil the depth of a spade-head (at least 12 in)
- Set that soil aside and loosen the subsoil with a garden fork
- Return topsoil with any added amendments like compost
- Fill the LAST trench with soil excavated from the first
Garden Templates

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

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

- bolt choi
- broccoli
- brussels sprouts
- cabbage
- carrot
- celery
- chives
- cilantro

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

## Vegetable Garden Planting Guide

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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
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
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
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

Caveats:
NO sprinklers, no unattended watering
Ollas Are Drought-Friendly

- Unglazed clay pots buried in soil with neck exposed
- Water through top opening, water seeps out naturally at steady rate to ensure constant water source at the roots
- Results in fewer weeds, less evaporation, no soil compaction

Credit: Dripping Springs Ollas
Wicking Bed Construction

Location: Zilker Botanical Garden
Wicking Bed Construction

Location: Zilker Botanical Garden
Planting

• Resources for planting assistance
• Resources for planting techniques
• Innovative planting and gardening resources
• Austin Grow Green program support
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