



SUMMER VEGETABLE GARDEN SUCCESS - LINKS

Central NC Planting Calendar for Annual Vegetables, Fruits and Herbs (NC State Extension)

https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/central-north-carolina-planting-calendar-for-annual-vegetables-fruits-and-herbs

NC Extension Gardener Handbook - chapter 16, Vegetable Gardening

https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/extension-gardener-handbook/16-vegetable-gardening

Vegetable Gardening: A Beginner's Guide (NC State Extension)

https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/home-vegetable-gardening-a-quick-reference-guide

First and Last Frost Dates in NC – interactive map and chart (NC State Extension)

https://gardening.ces.ncsu.edu/2020/09/first-and-last-frost-dates/?src=rss

Raised Beds (Clemson Cooperative Extension)

https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/raised-beds

Soil Testing - Resources and Links (from NCDA&CS and NC State Extension)

https://guilford.ces.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Soil-Testing-Links-2024.pdf?fwd=no

Municipal Compost Information - Guilford County locations

https://guilford.ces.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Municipal-Compost.pdf?fwd=no

Watering the Vegetable Garden (Clemson Cooperative Extension) - includes soaker hoses, drip irrigation https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/watering-the-vegetable-garden

How to Install Home Garden Drip Irrigation (video, University of Kentucky)

https://uknowledge.uky.edu/bae_present/1

Fertilizer and Side Dressing Basics (NC State EMGSM program, Guilford County)

https://docs.google.com/document/d/186cIuHqhIIkl89KKuvBPMVCn6kZiEPEDhIGiCcu8miU/edit

Controlling Weeds by Cultivating and Mulching (Clemson Cooperative Extension)

https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/controlling-weeds-by-cultivating-mulching

Harvesting Vegetables (Clemson Cooperative Extension)

https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/harvesting-vegetables



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Summer Vegetable Gardens - resources and problem solving

Tomato Diseases and Disorders (Clemson Cooperative Extension)

https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/tomato-diseases-disorders/

Tomato Insect Pests (Clemson Cooperative Extension) - excellent photos and suggested control options https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/tomato-insect-pests/

Cucumber, Squash, Melon & Other Cucurbit Diseases (Clemson Cooperative Extension) https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/cucumber-squash-melon-other-cucurbit-diseases

Cucumber, Squash, Melon & Other Cucurbit Insect Pests (Clemson Cooperative Extension) https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/cucumber-squash-melon-other-cucurbit-insect-pests

Homeowner's Guide to Managing Diseases Using Fungicides, Bactericides, and Alternative Products (NC State Extension) https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/homeowners-guide-to-managing-diseases-using-fungicides-bactericides-and-alternative-products

Less Toxic Insecticides (Clemson Cooperative Extension) http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/pests/pesticide/hgic2770.html

Home and Backyard Composting (NC State Extension portal) - Q&A, videos, links, and resources https://composting.ces.ncsu.edu/home-composting

Excluding and Repelling Problem Wildlife from the Garden (Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst) https://ag.umass.edu/home-lawn-garden/fact-sheets/wildlife-excluding-repelling-problem-wildlife-from-garden

Fencing to Exclude Deer (North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission) https://www.ncwildlife.org/Learning/Species/Mammals/Whitetail-Deer/Fencing-to-Exclude-Deer#42041178-electric-deer-barrier-principles

Low-Cost Deer Fence Alternative (video, University of Maryland) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TmIGg786gOk



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Integrated Pest Management and Best Practices

NC Extension Gardener Handbook – chapter 8, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/extension-gardener-handbook/8-integrated-pest-management-ipm

National Pesticide Information Center - Integrated Pest Management (Oregon State University, US EPA) http://npic.orst.edu/pest/ipm.html

Plant Disease and Insect Clinic (NC State, Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology) https://pdic.ces.ncsu.edu

Keep It Clean: Practices for Healthy Vegetable Gardens (NC State Extension Gardener) https://extensiongardener.ces.ncsu.edu/2022/01/keep-it-clean-practices-for-healthy-vegetable-gardens

Minimizing Risks of Soil Contaminants in Urban Gardens (NC State Extension) https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/minimizing-risks-of-soil-contaminants-in-urban-gardens

Top Ten Tips to Prevent Problems - Grow Strong Healthy Plants

- 1- Select a sunny spot for the vegetable garden (at least 8 hours) with access to water
- 2- Do a soil test and adjust your pH according to the lab's recommendations
- 3- Incorporate organic matter such as compost into the root zone (top 6-12" of soil)
- 4- Grow or purchase quality transplants, and wait for the right soil and air temps before planting
- 5- Give plants enough growing space based on their mature size, and keep foliage clean
- 6- Mulch to reduce fungal disease and weed pressure, and also to regulate soil moisture and temperature
- 7- Supply regular watering if rainfall is lacking, based on the plant's size and stage of growth
- 8- Fertilize carefully: vegetable plants often need supplemental nitrogen, but beware of over applying
- 9- Rotate plants to reduce fungal disease issues, and practice good garden sanitation
- 10- Follow IPM principles monitor your plants to keep ahead of potential problems, and get a proper diagnosis of any issues before taking action: if action is required, look for the least impactful solutions first



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THE IPM "PYRAMID"

a guide to mindful decision-making for home gardeners



Least impactful/most effective Goal is management, not eradication Can be mechanical, biological, chemical

ACTION THRESHOLDS

When do you "do something"?

Some damage can be tolerated, or may be temporary

Decisions are made based on research, degree of damage

RESEARCH, EDUCATION

What is the cause of the problem?

Learn life cycles and target weakest stage - timing is important

Don't assume controls are necessary until you have complete information

MONITORING, IDENTIFICATION

Inspect plants regularly; especially if pest-prone

Be alert to potential problems in early stages and identify cause(s) correctly

Check cultural situation first - improving growing conditions may be the best solution

PREVENTION

The foundation of IPM systems - don't have problems in the first place!

Almost all prevention strategies are cultural.

First step is to test your soil, and amend it according to recommendations.

Then choose the right plants for the site, plant them correctly, and care for them properly.

When you use best cultural practices many pests can be prevented or minimized.

Then use the rest of the IPM "pyramid" to keep the system in balance.

START HERE AND WORK UPWARDS

Created and Distributed by Guilford County Extension Master GardenerSM Volunteers



