Sloat
Garden Center

Vegetable Planting (fall)

Vegetable gardening is not just a spring pursuit. Early fall is an ideal time to plant cool season vegetables, greens, and root crops. Not only does cool weather enhance growth rate, but light frost will also improve vegetable flavor. Another benefit is that many common pests like caterpillars and leaf miners are not as plentiful. Cooler temperatures also enhance the colors of leafy greens and roots. Carrots are more orange, radishes are redder, and red pigments in greens are more pronounced.

Favorite cool season food to grow this fall

Greens: arugula, chard, endive, escarole, lettuce, mache, spinach.

Root crops: beets, carrots, radishes, rutabagas, turnips

Brassicas: broccoli, Brussels sprouts, bok choy, cabbage, cauliflower, kohlrabi

Leafy Brassicas: collards, kale, mustard greens

Other fall favorites: celery, fava beans, leeks, peas, spring onions.

Herbs: parsley, rosemary, sage, thyme

Soild Preperation

Prepare soil as in spring, replenishing nutrients and restoring tilth. Mix Sloat Loam Builder 50/50 with native soil, using one bag per 25 square feet. Work soil to one-foot depth for root crops. Add Agricultural Lime per directions, crucial for cole crops. Incorporate Sure Start or E.B. Stone Vegetable food. For containers, use Sloat Organic Potting Soil with Sure Start.

Planting

Cool weather vegetables are available as transplants, except root crops which need seeds. Plant onions from seed in fall for summer bulbs - fall-planted sets only produce scallions as they bolt in spring. Plant seeds deeper in fall than spring due to drier surface soil and need for cooler seedlings. Further enhance the appearance of your vegetable garden by interplanting fall annuals: alyssum, pansies and violas. Alyssum also attracts syrphid or hover flies. These beneficial insects reproduce and those hatchlings eat aphids (a frequent lettuce / cole crop pest)!

Watering and Care

Thin plants for proper sizing of roots and greens. Maintain consistent moisture for young plants. Water maturing plants regularly to prevent bitterness in greens. Watch for birds, especially golden-crowned sparrows, in early morning. These birds target young seedlings, particularly peas. Consider using a lightweight row cover for protection.

We'll help you grow the plants you love!

www.sloatgardens.com