



GREATER LANSING  
**foodbank**  
GARDEN PROJECT

# Planning Your Garden

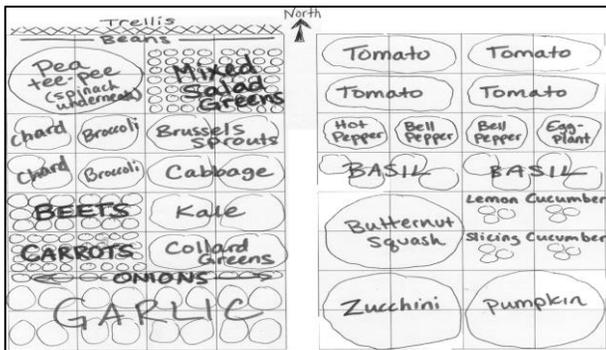
Whether you are new to gardening or a veteran gardener, this tip sheet will help you be successful from planting to harvest!

## Where to put your garden

Choose a location convenient to your home and close to a water source.

Gardens need full sun for a minimum 6-8 hours per day. Avoid shrubs and trees.

Plant in deep, nutrient dense, well-drained soil. Avoid slopes and low areas.



## Plan your garden on paper

- Start small (10' X 10' is great!) and expand as you gain more experience.
- Plant tall vegetables on the north side so they don't block light from shorter crops.
- Draw a garden (or container garden) map and include specific locations of each vegetable, spacing between plants/rows, and planting dates.
- Don't forget about all the useful information on the back of seed packets. This includes spacing, light requirements, and planting dates.

## Keep your plants happy!

- **Fertilize:** Sprinkle a few used coffee grounds into the soil around your plants to use as fertilizer or start a compost pile. Compost is a sustainable way to both manage your kitchen and yard waste and provide a great source of nutrients for your garden.
- Take care of pesky **weeds:** Lay leaves, cut grass, straw or shredded newspapers in beds to keep weeds suppressed. Make sure to pull any weeds you may see poking through before they get too big.
- Don't forget to **water!** Focus watering on the root zone. Wet leaves can spread plant diseases that you don't want!

**BIG JOE TOMATO**  
*Solanum lycopersicum* 8

Big Joe Tomato is a hearty beefsteak indeterminate tomato with excellent disease resistance.

7	9	10	11	12	13
LIGHT	ROW SPACING	PLANT SPACING	PLANTING DEPTH	DAYS TO GERMINATION	PLANT HEIGHT
Full Sun	2 ft.	12 in.	1 in.	7	5 ft.

14 Starting seeds inside: Start seeds inside at least eight weeks before the average last frost date. Transplant outside: Transplant seedlings outside after nighttime temperatures are above 70 degrees. Days to maturity: 75. Suggestions: Plant tomato seedlings deep, leaving only the top two sets of leaves above the soil.

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## Know when to plant certain crops

### Cool Season: Plant late April/early May

Beets, broccoli, Brussel sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, chard, endive, garlic, kale, lettuce, mustard, onions, parsnips, peas, potatoes, radishes, rutabagas, spinach, and turnips

### Warm Season: Plant late May/early June:

Basil, corn, cucumbers, eggplant, melons, okra, peppers, pumpkins, shell beans, snap beans, squash, tomatoes, and watermelon