



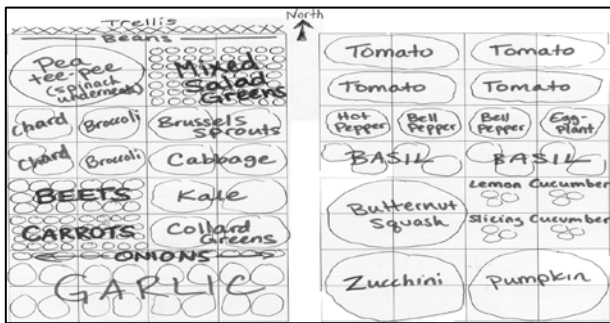
GREATER LANSING  
**foodbank**  
GARDEN PROJECT

# 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

- In a location that is convenient to your home
- Close to a water source
- Sunny (6-8 hours per day) and level spot (avoid slopes and low areas)
- Away from shrubs and trees
- In an area with deep, nutrient dense, well drained soil



## 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 to use as both a sustainable way to manage your kitchen and yard waste, as well as 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, and make sure to pull any weeds you may see poking through before they get too big.
- And don't forget to water! When watering focus on the root zone. Wet leaves can cause the spread plant diseases that you don't want!

## Plan your garden on paper

- Start small (10' X 10') and expand as you gain more experience
- Plant tall vegetables on the north side so they do not block the 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 growing time.

**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	2ft.	12 in.	1 in.	7	5ft.

Plant Jun - Jul  
Plant May - Jul  
Plant Apr - Jul  
Plant Mar - Aug  
Plant Feb - Sep

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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**MORNING GLORY**  
Choice Mixed Colors

Mammoth flowers in azure blue, pink, white and rose. Ideal for a fence or trellis. Blooms from midsummer until fall frost.

Days to Germinate	Depth To Sow	Seed Spacing	Growing Height	Type
10-14	1/4 in	2-3 in	8-10 ft	Annual

Sow in average garden soil in a sunny or partial shade location, after the danger of spring frost.  
Thin seedlings when they are 3-4 inches in height, with the final spacing of the plants 6-8 inches apart.  
Garden Hints: Soak seed in warm water for 24 hours prior to planting.

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OUTDOOR PLANTING DATES:  
Zone 1 Sept-Feb  
Zone 2 March-June  
Zone 3 April-June  
Zone 4 May-June

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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