

MONTHLY HORTICULTURAL NEWSLETTER

Vegetable and Herb Checklist for January

The arrival of the New Year means the beginning of a new vegetable gardening season! Gardeners in South Texas can continue planting and harvesting cool-season vegetables from fall through winter.

In the mid-section of the state, new plantings of cool-season vegetables can start in mid-January. This includes transplants of broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, collards kohlrabi, kale, leeks, Brussels sprouts and onions, as well as seeds lettuce, spinach, beets, carrots, mustard, radishes and turnips.

Mid- to late January also provides a window for planting cool season peas, such as English, snap and snow peas. Likewise, in late January gardeners can begin planting potatoes.

January is the time to [plant asparagus crowns in the garden as well as crowns of artichokes. If you've never tried growing artichokes before and live in the southern half of the state, you should give them a try this year.

Start seeds of tomatoes, peppers and eggplant in trays indoors for setting out in early spring. Once the seeds are up and growing, make sure to provide plenty of sunlight or artificial light to keep them from getting spindly and pale.

Seedlings grow best in natural sunlight. A south-facing window works well if you don't have a greenhouse or cold frame in which to start your seedlings. Turn the seedling trays once or twice a day to keep them growing upward as they tend to lean toward the light. If natural light is lacking, provide a shop light within a few inches of the plants to promote strong, stocky growth. Fertilize with dilute soluble fertilizer solution.

Herb seeds can also be started now to allow about eight weeks of growth prior to transplanting outdoors. An exception would be basil which grows fast and loves warm temperatures. Hold off until next month to start basil transplants.

Its time to start transplants of warm-season vegetables, so the earlier you order, the sooner you can get them up and growing!



Advice on growing, feeding and propagating plants, plus information on pests and diseases.

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