

GARDENING TOPICS | Steve Christensen

Soil

You want good well draining soil!

A. Percolation test. 1x1 hole, fill with water. If it drains in 1 to 3 hours=Awesome! Over 6 hours= Awful!

B. Quart jar test for general soil information

C. Soils lab test. Best!



Seed

A. Fresh good quality is best= good germination

B. Planting depth 2x seed diameter, tamp soil/seed

C. Keep continually moist till germination

D. Know your planting to harvest dates

E. For seed longevity store in airtight container in a cool, low humidity area. Fridge, basement, freezer.

Fertilizers

1. Granular with high phosphate tilled in or

2. Foliar

A. I like foliar

B. Every 1-2 weeks application

C. It makes me look at garden often so as to notice weed and pest problems



Sun and Water

A. Try for at least 6+ hours of sun

B. Afternoon shade can be good in hot summer

C. Keep soil moist, not continual state of saturation

D. I like drip irrigation

E. Use 30-60 %shade cloth will help plants and you will use less water.





SEED VIABILITY CHART



SHELF LIFE BY PLANT TYPE

VEGETABLES

Artichokes: 1-4 years
 Asparagus: 3-4 years
 Asian Greens: 3-4 years
 Beans: 2-3 years
 Beets: 3-5 years
 *Brassicas: 3-5 years
 Carrots: 3-4 years
 Celery: 3-5 years
 Corn: 2-3 years
 Cucumber: 5-6 years
 Eggplant: 4-5 years
 Leeks: 1-3 years
 Lettuce: 1-5 years
 Melons: 3-6 years
 Okra: 2-3 years
 Onion: 1-2 years
 Parsnips: 1-2 years
 Peas: 2-3 years
 Peppers: 2-4 years
 Pumpkin: 4-6 years
 Radish: 5 years
 Spinach: 1-5 years
 Squash: 4-5 years
 Swiss Chard: 2-5 years
 Tomato: 4-7 years
 Turnips: 4-5 years

HERBS

Arugula: 3-5 years
 Basil: 4-5 years
 Borage: 2-4 years
 Catnip: 3-4 years
 Chamomile: 4 years
 Chives: 1-3 years
 Cilantro: 2-4 years
 Dill: 2-4 years
 Fennel: 2-4 years
 Hyssop: 1-4 years
 Lavender: 3-4 years
 Lemon Balm: 1-4 years
 Lovage: 1-3 years
 Marjoram: 1-3 years
 Mint: 3-4 years
 Oregano: 4 years
 Parsley: 1-4 years
 Rosemary: 1-4 years
 Sage: 1-3 years
 Thyme: 1-4 years
 Yarrow: 3-5 years

*Brassicas = cabbage,
 broccoli, cauliflower,
 kale, collards, kohlrabi
 and Brussels sprouts

FLOWERS

Alyssum: 3-5 years
 Aster: 1-2 years
 Bachelor's Buttons: 3-5
 Calendula: 4-6 years
 Celosia: 3-4 years
 Cosmos: 3-5 years
 Dahlia: 2-5 years
 Daisy: 2-3 years
 Echinacea: 2-4 years
 Hollyhock: 2-3 years
 Larkspur: 1-3 years
 Lupine: 3-5 years
 Marigold: 2-4 years
 Milkweed: 1-2 years
 Nasturtium: 4-7 years
 Nigella: 2-5 years
 Pansy: 2 years
 Poppy: 2-4 years
 Salvia: 1-3 years
 Snapdragon: 3-5 years
 Strawflower: 1-2 years
 Sunflower: 3-5 years
 Sweet Pea: 2-4 years
 Verbena: 1-5 years
 Viola: 1-2 years
 Zinnia: 3-6 years

St. George Planting Zones

USDA zone 8a-b

Low temp 10-15 degrees F

Heat zone Zone 9

120 - 150 days > 86°F

First frost Zone 10

Nov. 1 - Nov. 10

Last frost Zone 10

Apr. 11 - Apr. 20

When and What to plant

Group A: Hardy Feb 15

(Plant as soon as the soil dries out in the spring).

Seed: Kohlrabi, Onions, Peas, Radish, Spinach, Turnip

Plants: Artichoke, Asparagus, Broccoli, Cabbage, Turnip, Brussels Sprouts

Group B: Semi - Hardy March 1

(Plants a week or two after 'A' group or about 2 weeks before average last spring frost).

Seed: Beet, Lettuce, Potato, Carrot, Parsley, Salsify, Endive, Parsnip, Swiss Chard

Plant: Cauliflower

Group C: Tender March 15

(Plant on the average date of the last spring frost-about when first apples reach full bloom).

Seed: Cucumber, New Zealand Spinach, Spinach, Sweet Corn, Dry Bean, Snap Bean, Summer Squash

Plant: Celery

Group D: Very Tender April 1

(Plant when the soil is warm, about 2 weeks after 'C' group).

Seed: Cantalope, Lima Bean, Winter Squash

Plants: Eggplant, Pepper, Pumpkin, Tomato, Watermelon

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Gardening Resources(Not complete, but I have used these companies and like their products)

Seed

Kirkland Sandy Acres

545 W 400 N St, Saint George, UT 84770, 435 628-0844

Great selection of bulk seed. Knowledgeable about what to plant and when. I buy most of my seed, seed potatoes, green onions from them.

Plant starts.

Star Nursery, 435 986-0820 (Cotton Mill)

Sandia green houses 4234 S Washington Fields Rd 435 628-1367

Lowes, Home Depot

Soil

Star Nursery has a pre mixed compost sandy soil. Can buy by big bag or truckload.

Sunroc has a good pond dirt/sand mix that they sell by truck load or bring your trailer. You will need to add OM.

Organic Matter

Bagged -any local retailer.

Bulk- St. George Reuse center <https://wcs.w.org/compost/> River road) \$41/ ton

Western Rock \$50/ ton(scale house past landfill), Star Nursery?

Fertilizers

Star Nursery, Sprinkler Supply(435 652-8351)

Soil Testing

www.usu.edu/analytical-laboratories/tests/home-soil-testing

Sprinklers-Drip- Pipe

Sprinkler supply, Star, Cal Ranch

Online resources

www.starnursery.com

<https://extension.usu.edu/yardandgarden/>

<https://extension.usu.edu/washington/gardening/vegetables/>

Pocket Gardener—[https://www.canva.com/design/DADmhcjHqkc/](https://www.canva.com/design/DADmhcjHqkc/s89QPHhk5s7ltyWnmakNHQ/view?_s=aaausqq1o6gefewsbi2t#3)

[s89QPHhk5s7ltyWnmakNHQ/view?_s=aaausqq1o6gefewsbi2t#3](https://www.canva.com/design/DADmhcjHqkc/s89QPHhk5s7ltyWnmakNHQ/view?_s=aaausqq1o6gefewsbi2t#3)

www.almanac.com/gardening

