

UF/IFAS Extension Presents
SPRING INTO VEGETABLE GARDENING
 Interactive Video Series for Novice Gardeners



Site Selection
 Garden Planning
 Soil Preparation

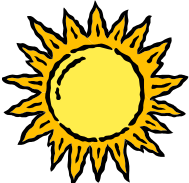
Mary Derrick
 Residential Horticulture Agent
 UF IFAS Santa Rosa




Site Selection

At least 5-6 hours/day of full sun


Locate near house and water source for easy access



Site Selection

Avoid:

- **Competing tree roots**
- **Wet soils**
- **Poor soils**
- **Septic lines**



Garden Planning

Type of garden

- Traditional
- Raised beds
- Containers
- Hydroponic



Garden Planning

Square foot gardening



Garden Planning

Considerations

- What will you plant?
- How much will you consume?
- What will you do with any surplus?
- Do you need tools?
- Who does the labor?
- What is your budget?



Garden Tools



- Rake
- Spade
- Trowel
- Yard-stick
- Labels
- Wheel-barrow
- Roto-tiller
- Sprayer
- Buckets
- Hoe
- Storage shed

Garden Planning

- Draw a plan on paper
- Record crops and dates
- Consider plant spacing
- North-south rows
- Arrange so smaller plants are not shaded by larger plants
- Wide-row technique



Garden Planning

- Stagger plantings about 2 weeks apart to extend season
- Add flowers to attract pollinators
- Rotate crops



Garden Planning



Perennial beds:
asparagus or herbs

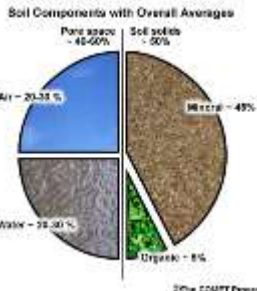
Garden Planning

- Corn in blocks for pollination
- Intercropping the Three Sisters radish & pepper



Soil in the Panhandle

What is soil?



Role of Soil

- Anchors plants
- Holds water and nutrients
- Supports beneficial organisms
- Provides temperature buffer for roots



Common Soil Problems

- Does not hold water
- Nutrient poor
- Scant life in the soil
- pH is high or low
- Compacted



Soil Preparation

Native Soil

- Test soil pH (adjust if needed)
- Acidity/alkalinity
- Best range: 5.8-6.5



Soil Preparation

Adding lime

- Dolomite – also adds magnesium – 2 to 3 months before planting
- Retest after 3 years

High pH

- Often in spots with construction debris or overlimed
- Sulfur will help correct if overlimed
- Native soil pH > 7.0 consider raised beds

Soil Preparation

- Clear debris, sod & plants
- Cultivate soil
- Amend soil with organic matter



Soil Amendments

Organic Matter

- Conditions soil
- Improves water holding
- Improves nutrient holding
- Supplies nutrients – slow release
- Increases soil life



Soil Amendments

Organic

- Manures
- Fish meal
- Compost
- Wood chips
- Blood meal (N)
- Bone meal (P)

Inorganic

- Peat
- Lime
- Sulfur
- Gypsum

Soils for Containers

- Mushroom compost
- Commercial potting mix
- Make your own:
a popular mix is
1/3 compost
1/3 peat
1/3 vermiculite



Create your own compost

- Recycles yard debris
- Combination of "green" and "brown" materials
- Microorganisms do the work
- Many ways to build one



Thank you!