

A Step-by-Step Guide to Basic Gardening

You don't need the greenest thumb to grow a successful garden. Farm-to-table freshness right from your backyard is as simple as **“prepare, plant, maintain.”**

PREPARE

what to do before you dig in

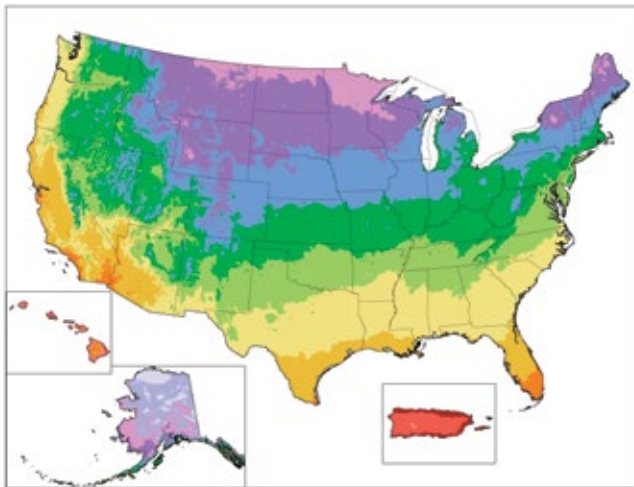
GET A LAY OF THE LAND. Different plants enjoy different growing conditions. Get familiar with your location before choosing plants.

- Take note of the amount of sun and shade in the area.
- Test your soil to find out its pH level (you can purchase soil tests at major home improvement stores).

BREAK GROUND. Cultivate the soil to provide aeration, which creates a happier place for plants to take root. This is also a great time to mix in fertilizer or other soil treatments if needed (based on your soil test). Psst ... the **Garden Cultivator's** pointed tines make digging through all types of soil super easy.

KNOW YOUR ZONE

Plants (usually perennials) often have a tag that includes a hardiness zone number, which corresponds to a section on the USDA Hardiness Zone Map (below). It's a way to determine whether a particular plant will survive and grow in your area. If the number on the plant's tag corresponds with your region on the map, you're good to go!



Average Annual Extreme Minimum Temperature 1976-2005

Temp (F)	Zone	Temp (C)
-60 to -50	1	-51.1 to -45.6
-50 to -40	2	-45.6 to -40
-40 to -30	3	-40 to -34.4
-30 to -20	4	-34.4 to -28.9
-20 to -10	5	-28.9 to -23.3
-10 to 0	6	-23.3 to -17.8
0 to 10	7	-17.8 to -12.2
10 to 20	8	-12.2 to -6.7
20 to 30	9	-6.7 to -1.1
30 to 40	10	-1.1 to 4.4
40 to 50	11	4.4 to 10
50 to 60	12	10 to 15.6
60 to 70	13	15.6 to 21.1

PLANT

get those plants in the ground

GET PICKY. It's decision time. What do you want to grow in your garden?

- Pick a variety of plants that bloom in different seasons for year-round color and production.
- Remember “thrill and fill” — a mantra every gardener should live by. Place taller “thrill” plants in the back or center of your garden, and shorter “fill” plants in the surrounding space.

HAVE A PLAN. Before digging in, arrange plants (still in their containers) where you plan to dig so you can visualize spacing. Remember, give 'em plenty of space to grow! The measurement markings on the **Garden Trowel** and **Garden Transplanter** come in handy here.

DIG IN. It's time to get your hands dirty!

- Grab your trusty **Garden Trowel** and dig a hole approximately twice as wide and about the same depth as the plant.
- Remove the plant from the container. Sometimes plants become root-bound in their container, so use the **Garden Transplanter's** serrations to cut them free.
- Place the plant in the hole, backfill with soil, and then water away.

MAINTAIN

make your garden grow

HYDRATE. Plants should get 1" – 2" of water weekly, so break out the hose if it hasn't rained enough. It's best to water in the evening or early morning when the sun isn't too strong.

IN THE WEEDS. Weeds aren't just ugly, they steal water and nutrients from your plants. If pesky invaders take over, remove weeds that have flowers or seeds first so they don't seed new weeds. Then tackle weeding the rest of the garden one square foot at a time.* The **Garden Weeder** helps pop weeds out at the root so they won't grow back.

CUT BACK. Gardens are happiest — and look best — when they're well-kept, so make the **Garden Pruning Shears** your best friend.

- Remove spent flowers to help plants produce new blooms.
- Prune trees and shrubs in the dormant season, prior to new growth. Wait to prune spring-flowering trees and shrubs until after they bloom.†

WHEN IN DOUBT, ASK A LOCAL GARDENING EXPERT. THEY'LL HAVE SPECIFIC TIPS FOR YOUR REGION'S PARTICULAR GROWING CONDITIONS. HERE'S WHERE TO FIND THEM:

- Nursery or garden center.
- Arboretum (they should have certified horticulturalists).
- Colleges with a horticulture program.

HERB GARDENING: THE BASICS

Why not plant a "kitchen garden" near the house with frequently used herbs and greens? It's a great way to get the most delicious and nutritious herbs for cooking, and for a fraction of what you pay at the grocery store. Follow the trusty "**prepare, plant, maintain**" method, keeping these helpful tips in mind.

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION. Pick your location carefully!

- Most herbs prefer full sun — at least six hours per day.*
- Herbs like rich, gravely soil with excellent drainage.*

HARVEST TIME. Harvest herbs by cutting back a shoot to just above a leaf. Quick tip — the **Mini Professional Shears** are perfect for cutting delicate herbs.

SAVE SOME FOR LATER. Towards the end of the growing season, take cuttings of herbs to grow on a sunny windowsill during the cold or winter months.†

Sources:

*National Gardening Association (garden.org)

†Morton Arboretum (mortonarb.org)