



GROW YOUR OWN

2022 Workshop Series

MARCH: Planning Your Garden

March is the month to decide:

- Location
- What size your garden will be
- What you want to grow
- What materials you will need to get started
- **GET YOUR SOIL TEST! (see Resources section for Logan Labs link)**

After this lesson, you should be able to:

- Begin marking out your garden space
- Be able to plan your seed order or list of plants
- Be able to put together the materials you will need, such as raised bed materials, trellising, fencing, irrigation, mulch- plastic or natural.

Choosing a Location

- Identify areas on your property with slope, hours of sun/shade, microclimates; rocks, cement, buildings hold heat or shade areas.
- Note the frost dates of your area.
- Measure the amount of sunlight and choose a site that gets the most sun. Vegetables need a minimum of 6 to 10 hours of sunlight from April 1 to November 1.

Garden Size

Choose the size of your garden based on the amount of space you have and the amount of time and commitment you have to tend it. Remember, the number one ingredient to a successful garden is Your Presence.

What to Grow

Decide what you want to grow.

- Are you looking to harvest a beautiful ripe, red tomato?
- Do you want to grow vegetables you can't find in the store or Farmer's Market?
- Do you want to teach your children how to plant a seed and watch it grow?

Materials

- Once you make your list, research what each vegetable needs.
- How much space will that zucchini take up when it is fully grown?
- Do those tomatoes need to be supported?
- Are you going to plant bush beans or pole beans?
- Can you grow that plant in a container?
- How long before it will be ripe?
- Consider if you will need to protect your garden with a fence or supports for the plants.
- Maybe growing in a raised bed will be a good idea. How easily will you be able to access the garden? Will you be around to check on it?
- Consider your access to water. Will you want to add a drip line or irrigation system or just plan on watering with a sprinkler or hose?
- Seed catalogs, seed packets, books and online sources are available to help you learn about the needs of each vegetable you plant.

Before next month's class, April 16, 2022:

- Take a soil test sample and send out. Very important! It is better to know what your soil needs than to guess!
- Finalize your list of plants
- Fill out our shared Google Docs if you want to be part of soil amendments and seed orders

(Resources on next page)

RESOURCES

Soil Sample: Logan Labs Soil Sample Instructions

<https://loganlabs.com/get-started.html>

1000 Garden Challenge Facebook Page

Ask questions, share your successes, meet other local gardeners!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1000GardenChallenge>

OUR SHARED SPREADSHEETS:

“Plan Your Garden” shared spreadsheet for Grow Your Own workshop:

Add a tab for your garden plan to share with the group

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1zDjT5yi68Yv1KW9RmcFNBpylhbXdVLYPE5P74iCPPk/edit#gid=0>

“Soil Test Results” shared spreadsheet for Grow Your Own workshop

Add a tab for your soil results and we will guide you in getting the right amendments

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1SsNBEwzQiW6s_SeRmHhYt1oGogONq0595gcpLXL2L10/edit#gid=0

OTHER RESOURCES:

Johnny’s Selected Seeds Soil Block Maker Instruction Manual

<https://www.johnnyseeds.com/on/demandware.static/-/Library-Sites-JSSSharedLibrary/default/dw83625822/assets/information/soil-block-maker-instructions.pdf>

Gardeners Supply - <https://www.gardeners.com>

Johnny’s Seeds with lots of information - <https://www.johnnyseeds.com>

Fruition Seeds - fruitionseeds.com

Frost dates by zip code - <https://morningchores.com/frost-dates>

What to plant month by month - <https://www.ufseeds.com/learning/what-to-plant-now/>

USDA Hardiness Zone Map - <https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov>

Cold frames, row covers, raised beds, garden products - gardeners.com

Podcasts, Bogs, Planners:

www.journeywithjill.net - Jill

melissaknorris.com - Melissa

growyourownvegetables.org - Stacy Murphy

<https://www.smilinggardener.com> - Phil

empressofdirt.net - Melissa