

# YOUR GARDEN

## Tips To Help You Plan A Vegetable Garden

(NAPSA)—A little planning can help your vegetable garden grow and flourish. Here are a few tips to help you plant a vegetable garden offered by Lisa Singer, the creator of the Backyard Botanical Gardening System:

**1. Make a Plan:** Write out a simple garden plan detailing where you would like each plant to go. This will not only help lay out the garden efficiently, but can also serve as a great reference for later on.

**2. Let the Sun Shine:** Most vegetable gardens need a minimum of six hours of direct sunlight, so observe the area at different times of the day and monitor the amount of sunlight it receives.

**3. Know When to Grow:** Research your region's first and last frost dates, so you know if you need to start your seeds indoors before transferring them outdoors. An investment in seeds can save you money over time. A recent study by Burpee Seed Co. estimates that gardeners can harvest \$1,250 worth of produce on an investment of \$50 in seed and fertilizer.

**4. The Tools of the Trade:** The minimum equipment needed by most gardeners includes a shovel or spade, a hoe, a rake and a trowel.

**5. Digging In:** Many gardeners enhance the soil by adding organic matter, lime and some commercial fertilizer. If you start your garden from seeds, select a seed-starting mix, which is lightweight and sterile, both of which are keys to successful seed germination.

**6. Consistently Water:** Make sure you water regularly and deeply so that your plants do not dry out. To take the guesswork out of watering, many gardeners



**A built-in irrigation system can deliver much-needed moisture to your garden and prevent it from drying out.**

use all-in-one gardening systems such as the Backyard Botanical Oasis Garden, which comes fully equipped with a battery-operated, built-in irrigation system. The self-contained raised bed systems allow gardeners to choose their own soil, prevent the soil from compacting under foot, reduce weed growth and eliminate the need to bend over during planting and harvesting.

**7. Harvest Time:** Harvesting in a timely manner is extremely important to the garden's success. When a plant's fruit has gone to seed, it will stop producing.

**8. Control Critters:** Unwanted insects and animals may consider the garden their very own backyard buffet. If ants become an issue, place a bait station outside the garden.

In the case of larger critters, using a gardening system, such as the Backyard Botanical system with pestproof flooring and fencing, can protect your garden.

For more information, please visit [backyardbotanical.com](http://backyardbotanical.com) and follow Lisa Singer on Twitter @Gardens2Gro.