Seattle’s climate is cool and wet, with cool dry summers. So heat-loving crops from hotter climates, like tomatoes, corn and peppers, are harder to grow here. But our mild spring, fall, and winter weather allows us to grow cool-loving Asian greens, kale, collards, spinach, and onions year round.

Starting Your Garden
Learn in this guide how to:

Choose a place to garden
- You need at least 6 hours of sun – without shade from trees or buildings. Make sure a water supply is close.
- Consider sharing garden space with neighbors, or join a P-Patch or other community garden.

Prepare your soil for planting
- Dig compost into the soil, or bury plant and food scraps.
- Mound up soil into raised beds.

Choose the right seeds to plant
- Grow what your family likes to eat, but choose vegetables that will grow well in our cool weather.
- Plant seeds at the depth and spacing on the seed packet.
- Plant when the soil is warm enough. Select seeds that say “80 days” or less to harvest on the seed packet. See calendar on back.

Wait until May 15 to seed or transplant heat-loving plants.
- Tomatoes, peppers and eggplant should be started in a greenhouse, then transplanted to beds in May.

Water and weed your garden
- Seedlings need water daily. Water mature plants 2-3 times a week if it hasn’t rained.

Harvest, and prepare garden for winter
- Ask other gardeners when to harvest, or read seed packet.
- Cover beds before winter with mulch, or plant winter cover crops.


Oddo Keesan jala qabu
Baruule kana Keessat waan asis gari jirin godhoo bara:

Bakka oddo keessani filadha
- Yo diqqate adu sa’ati ja’a, ka mukkeenif ijarssotan initifamin barbhadu. Burqaan bishani keessan dhihachu isa mirkkanessaa.
- Bakka oddo keessani olla keessan wajjiin qodachu yaada, Oddo P-Patch ykn oddo hawasa ka biro irrat hirmmadha.

Laafa Dhabbi mukkeeniti qophessa
- Madabara biyee keessa qota galcha ykn haftu mukkeeni ykn nyata awwaalaa.
- Sire biyee irrat biyee tuula.

Sanyi dhabaddan ka sirri tahe filadha
- Waan maatiin keessan nyachu fedhu dhaba, garu hala qileenssa qabanna’a keessan migiraat baaye biqila.
- Sanyi lafa keessa fageessa dhaba, akka waraqa irrat kahamet wali irrat fageessa dhaba.
- Yero biyeeen owwa tahe dhaba. Sanyi “guyya 80” ykn gad jedhu dhaba, akka waraqa irrat ibssamet  Kalandera yero argguuf asi duba ilala.

Mukeena owwa jalatan oso gara birat indabarsineen durat, hangga Caamsa(May) 15 eeiga.
Timatimi, qara fi mukkeen okkokkani (eggplant) mana magarsissa keessat jala qabu qabu, booda Caamsa(May) irrat gara sire dabarssa.

Oddo Keessan bishan obasa, fi harama
- Sanyiin biqilut jiru guyya guyyayat bishan barbhadu. Mikkeen guguda garu, yo inroobin, torbbanit yero 2-3 bishan obasu qabdu.

Yero roobati oddo sassaba ykn qophessa
- Yero itti sassabddan, namoota oddo qotan ka biro gaafadhka, ykn waraqa sanyi wajjiin dhufe dubbisa.
- Sire hundduma yero rooba sagatura uffisa, ykn mukkeen yero rooba dhaba.

Questions? Garden Hotline (206) 633-0224 Gaafii? Lakkoofssa Bilbbila Oddoo

City of Seattle Available in alternate formats on request: (206) 633-0224 TTY: (206) 233-7241
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Choose a Place to Garden

Where is there sun?
Most vegetables need at least six hours of direct sunlight a day to grow well. Watch where the sun shines on your yard, and pick the sunniest spots to garden. Trees or buildings can block the sun, especially in spring or fall. A south-facing wall will warm quickly in the spring, and be good for heat-loving plants like tomatoes and peppers in summer.

Where can you grow?
Turn sunny lawn areas into garden by removing and composting the sod. Or to kill the lawn by covering it with 12 inches (30 cm) of wet fall leaves in November. Cover the leaves with cardboard or black plastic. Wait until May to dig up the area and start planting.

Build raised beds. Mix soil with compost. Mound the soil up into a raised bed to help the soil warm in spring. Plan paths between beds so you never walk on your loose, compost-amended soil. You can add sides to your raised beds made from concrete blocks, broken concrete, wood or plastic lumber. Don’t use chemically treated wood.

Try gardening in containers. You can use large pots or half-barrels to grow tomatoes, peppers, greens, even berries.

Grow vertically on a sunny wall or in a window. Climbing plants like beans, tomatoes and cucumbers will grow if you provide good soil and poles for support.

Share with a neighbor, or join a community garden! Seattle’s P-Patch program can help you find a community garden near where you live. They are great places to grow food, learn, and meet other gardeners.

Testing your soil for lead or other contamination
Soil near old houses with peeling paint, or next to streets or in industrial areas may have lead, arsenic, or other contamination.

Call the Garden Hotline to find out where to get your soil tested, or to get a copy of WSU’s Gardening on Contaminated Soils. If you suspect that your soil is contaminated, build a raised bed and add 8 inches (20 cm) of fresh soil with compost.

Bakka Oddoo Filadha

Adduu eessa jira?
Akka gaarit guddachuuf, migrann addu dirira tahe sa’ati ja’a barbbadu. Oddoo keessan keessan bakka adun itti ba’u hubadha, fi bakka adduun akka garit itti bahu hubadha. Muken fi ijarsi adu ni illa, keessatu mudde fi birra keessat. Gidiggidaa gara kibba adu iilatu muddde irrat daf ooowaa, kanaf muukeen ooowaa jalatani ilala, fakenyaf fi timatimi fi qaara, bona keessat.

Eessat guddisu danddeettan?
Lafa adun itti ba’u oddo godadha hunda muka cicciruun madabara godha. Ykn baati Sadasa(November) keessat, baalota baati birra ka 12 inches (30 cm) uffisuun marra ijeessa. Baala karton fi lastiki gurachan agooga. Hangga baati Muddde(May) eega dhbaabu jala qaba.


Qoda keessat mukkeen dhabu. Okkote gugudda fi gamisa barmela keessat timatima, qara, gommana fi kudura berries dhabu ni danddeettan.

Qajelcha dhaba gidgidda adu qabu, ykn maskota irrat. Muken muka Koran ka akka boloqe, timatima fi cucumbers, yo isan muka isan itt rara’an qophesitan akka gaarit biqilu.

Olla wajjiin qodadha ykn oddo hawasa irrat hirmadha! Sagantta Seattle P-Patch, oddo hawasa ka gannda keessan jiru isanit ni himu. Kaneen bakka nyata itti guddiftan, barattaniif namota oddo qaban bakka itti wal barttan gaari.
Prepare Soil for Planting

**Compost** is decomposed plants (leaves, grass, dead plants) and food waste. Compost helps soil hold nutrients and water to grow healthy plants. You can make your own compost from grass clippings, leaves, sod, weeds, plants and food wastes, or you can buy compost. You can also bury food waste in the garden, or chop and drop plants.

**Mulch** is any material you spread on top of the soil, to conserve water, control weeds, and slowly feed the soil as it decomposes. Good mulches for gardens include fall leaves, plant and grass clippings, straw, coffee hulls, or compost.

Mix compost into your garden soil.

**Dig to loosen the soil** 8 to 12 inches deep (20-30 cm) with a shovel or garden fork. Spread compost 2 or 3 inches deep (5-8 cm). Then mix the compost into the soil.

**Or bury food and plant waste** at least 6 inches (15 cm) deep to compost.

Soil for container growing

Mix one part compost with two parts sandy soil. Drainage in containers can be improved by adding a larger material like pea gravel or medium bark. You can also buy pre-mixed “potting soil.” If you have old potting soil in containers, you can add about 1/4 compost to freshen it for a new growing season.

Buying fertilizer?

**Look for “organic”.** While vegetables get most of the nutrients they need from compost, a complete “organic” (from natural sources) fertilizer can speed their growth. Look for “organic vegetable fertilizer” or fish fertilizer at your garden store.

Get a soil test to discover other nutrient needs.

Washington soils may need lime every few years, which adds calcium and reduces acidity. Mix about 4 pounds (1.5 kg) of lime into soil per 100 square feet (9.3 square meters). Ask the Garden Hotline where you can send your soil sample for a test that will tell you about lime and other nutrient needs.

Mukeen dhaabuuf biyye qopheessa

**Madabara (Compost)** jechuun mukkeen (baala, marra, mukkan du’an) fi haftu nyata. Compost, biyyeen akka nyata fi bishan qabate turfatu fi fayya mukkeeni ni gargaaga. Compost mata keessant cira marra, baala, harama, mukkan fi haftu nyata irrada midhaafachu ykn bitachu ni danddeettan. Haftu nyata oddo keessat hawwalu ykn mukkeen ciccirttan itti kahu ni danddeettan.

**Mulch** jechuun, bishan qusuuf, harama balleessuf ykn laana torttorsi biyye nyachisu yo feetaan, waan isin biyye irrat dirirtsitan. Mulch garin ka dabalaha bala, mukkan ciccira mukkeenif mara, sagatuu, haftu buna fi madabara (compost).

**Madabara gara biyye oddo keessanit maka**

Biyeye laafsiusuf 8 hanga 12 inches (20-30 cm) gad fqeessaa qota, akafa ykn qottuuun fayyadamuuun. Compost kana 2 ykn 3 inches (5-8 cm) gad fqeessaa dirirsaa. Booda comost gara biyyeye maka.

Ykn biyye fi haftu muka compost wajjiin 6 inches (15 cm) gad fqeessaa awwala.

**Biyye qoda keessan mukeen itti guddisaniiin**


**Madabara bitatu? “Organic” tahu isa ilala.**


Biyye keessan qoradha, fedhi nyata isani bara. Biyyeen Washington wagga dixoq keessan, calcium daruun, gubachu(acid) isa dixqeesu ni barbbadu. Lime, 4 pounds (1.5 kg), biyyee 100 square feet (9.3 square meters) wajjiin maka. Qunxxura biyyee keessani erguuun wa’e lime fi fedhi nyata bakka itti baruf errggitan, ilalchise lakkoftaa bilbbila oddoo quunnnama.
Plant the Right Seeds, at the Right Time

Choose plants that grow well in our cool climate.
Grow what your family likes to eat, but choose varieties of vegetables that will grow well in our cool, wet spring weather and cool, dry summers.

When to plant

Seeds need soil warm enough to sprout — typically at least 50-60°F (10-16°C). You can wait until the soil warms in May, or use a plastic cover to warm it more quickly.

Read seed packets for planting dates, and choose ones that say “80 days” or less to harvest. Peas and potatoes can be planted in March, but leafy greens should wait until April, and heat-loving crops like corn until late May.

Or buy seedling plants of heat-loving, long-season tomatoes, peppers, and eggplant, to transplant into the garden in late May. You can also grow them yourself from seeds planted indoors in March, in containers in a sunny window.

See the Calendar on back page.

Planting seeds

Read the seed packet for planting depth and time. Tiny seeds like lettuce, carrots, and collards can be scattered on the prepared soil surface, then covered with a thin layer of compost or soil. Don’t plant these tiny seeds too deep! Larger seeds like peas, corn, and squash can be pushed with your finger one at a time into the prepared soil, at the depth and spacing described on the packet. Then water slowly to deeply moisten the soil.

Transplant heat-loving plants from greenhouse to garden in late May.

Make a hole as wide the seedling’s roots. Add compost or a sprinkle of fertilizer. Spread roots out, and gently push soil in around the roots. Water well. Plant at the same depth as the plant was in the pot at the greenhouse.

Water young seedlings regularly. Cover and protect seedling plants from extreme heat or cold until they are strong.
Thin and space plants – give them room to grow.

Follow the spacing directions on the seed packet. After seeds sprout and have a few leaves, thin (remove) seedlings to that spacing. You can also transplant seedlings from crowded areas to areas that aren’t full. This will ensure that plants have enough room to grow, and give you a bigger harvest. You can eat the little plants you pull as salad.

Succession planting

Plant more seeds every few weeks as long as the weather is warm, so that your harvest will continue into the fall. But don’t plant cool-loving crops like peas and spinach in hot July weather. Plant fall cool crops in August to early September.

Rotate crops

Some crops get diseases that stay in the soil for a year or more. And some crops use up soil nutrients quickly. To avoid problems, rotate (move) crop families to a different bed each year. ➔

Example

1st Year:
Bed A Tomato
Bed B Onion
Bed C Cabbage

2nd Year:
Bed A Cabbage
Bed B Tomato
Bed C Onion

3rd Year:
Bed A Onion
Bed B Cabbage
Bed C Tomato

Mukkeen garggar fageessa dhaaba – mukkeen bakka itti guddatan kennaf.


Tartiba mukkeen dhabu(Succession planting)

Torbban torbbaniin sanyiile dhaba, yo haali qilleenssa owwa tahe, kun akka homiishi hang birra itti fufu godha. Sanyi qaban jalatan ka akka boloqe fi gomana yero owwa ka akka Adooleessas(July) keessat indhabina. Mukkeen qabana birra Hagaya(August) ykn jalqaba Birra(September) keessat dhaaba.

Mukeena Jijijjiiru(Rotate crops)

Mukkeen gari biyye keessa waggan tokko ykn oli yo turan dhukkuba ni qabatu. Mukkeen garri nyata biyyo dafani ni fixu. Kana dowwuwuf, mukkeen sire tokko irra gara sire birot dabarssuun ni barbbachaachisa. ➔

Other vegetable families that benefit from changing locations each year:

cilantro  carrot  parsley
beet  chard  spinach
corn  wheat  teff
cucumber  melon  squash
lettuce  radicchio  endive
pea  bean  clover

These families can all be planted together with the tomato, cabbage, and onion families.

Maati Migira ka bira ka waggan bakka Jijiruun fayydaman:

cilantro  karota  parsley
beet  chard  spinach
boqollo  qamadi  xaafi
cucumber  melon  squash
lettuce  radicchio  endive
atar  bolooqe  clover

Maatilen kun maati timatima, gomana fi maati shunkkurti wajjiin dhabamu ni dandda’u.
**Water your garden**

Check your garden daily in hot summer weather. Water before vegetables droop, or when the soil feels dry 2 inches (5 cm) down. In cooler, rainy spring and fall you'll only need to water young seedlings. Direct water to the plant roots. Use a watering wand, or in flat areas lay out a soaker hose between rows and cover it with mulch. Water enough to moisten the whole root zone – dig a few inches down to see if the soil is moist. Plants in containers dry out more quickly than in the garden. Always water in the evening or early morning, to avoid evaporation waste and prevent wet plant damage from the mid-day sun.

**Control weeds and pests**

Spread mulch (leaves, grass clippings) and pull weeds before they go to seed. Most bugs are good bugs that help control pests. Learn which bugs are problems, and how to control them. Don't use chemical pesticides. They can poison your family and birds, pets, and fish. Call the Garden Hotline to identify pest or weed problems, and learn about non-toxic solutions.

**Garden All Year**

Our climate is cool and wet in spring and fall, and usually above freezing in winter. So heat-loving plants like corn are hard to grow, but cool-loving plants are easy. Extend your season with cold-hardy crops. Bok choi, kale, collards, broccoli, carrots, leeks, and garlic can be planted in late summer or early fall to grow for harvest all winter or in spring.

→ See the Calendar on back page.

Grow under cover. Start spring plants in a greenhouse or "cold frame," or extend fall growth with a plastic cover.

*Plant berries and other plants that grow for many years. Add these plants to your landscape wherever there's sun: blueberries and strawberries, artichokes, asparagus, even dwarf fruit trees or grapes. Ask the Garden Hotline about best varieties for our climate.*

**Oddo bishan obaasu**


**Harama fi bineenssa toohachu**

Sagatuurra dirirssa (baala, ciccirra marra) fi oso isan gara sanyi inggeenne harama buqisa.

Bineenssoti baayyeen bineenssa garri, isan bineenssa bada tahe toohachuf ni gargaaru. Bineenssoti kam akka bada tahan fi mala toohatanin baray.

Summi kemikalatiin(pesticides) infayyadamina. Maati fi sinphirro, bineenssa mana fi qurxxummi irrat summi fidu ni dandda’u. Bineenssa bada tahe, fi rakko harama hiikuf mala summi inqabnne baruuf lakkoqfssa bilbila oddoo bilbila.

**Wagga Guutu Hoomisha**

Haali qillenssa keenna mudde fi birrat jidha qabana’a fi jidha, yero baayye j’ay ganna cabbiitu jira. Mukkeen owwa jalatan ka akka boqoollo guddisuun nama rakka, garu mukkeen qabana jalatan guddisuun salpha.

Hoomisha qabana jalatan hoomishuun yero dhereffadha. Bok choi, kale, gomana, broccoli, karota, leeks, fi qullubin dihma j’ay bona ykn jalaqaba birra irrat dhabamuun ganna fi mudde irrat ni sassaabamu.

→ Kalandeera fula asi boda irra jiru ilala

Agogi jalat guddissa. Mana magarssiis ykn “coldframe” jalat mukkeen muddée jalaqaba, ykn lastikii hagooguun guddina baati birra dhereessa.

*Mukkeen berries fi mukkeen wagga baayyeef guddatan Bakka aduu jirruut yero hundduma mukkeen kana dabala: blueberries fi strawberries, artichokes, asparagus, fi mukkeen kudura fi wanna gaggabolee ni dbala. Hala qilleenssa kana kama akka gari tahe ilalchiise lakkoqfss bilbila oddoo quunnama.*
Harvest and Share!

Harvest vegetables before they go to seed. See seed packets for "days to maturity" and photos of ready-to-harvest plants, or ask gardeners at your local community garden about when to harvest.

Share your harvest. If you have more than you can eat, share with neighbors or call the Garden Hotline or see the P-Patch and Lettuce Link websites on back to learn about where to donate food.

Saving seeds is easy with most green leafy plants. Just hang the mature seed stalk to dry. Fruiting plants like tomatoes and squash often cross-breed, so saved seed may not produce good fruit. Call the Garden Hotline to learn more about saving seed, or any garden question.

Prepare Gardens for Winter

Fall is time to clean up the garden, compost dead plants, and protect your garden from winter weeds and from rainfall washing soil away.

Cover crops are usually legumes like clover, planted in October to grow through the winter. They protect the soil, and provide nutrients when you dig them into the soil before planting in spring.

Winter mulches should cover any soil areas not planted with overwintering crops or cover crops. Collect fall leaves and spread them 2-3 inches deep to cover exposed soil. You can also chop dead plants and spread them on the soil.

Composting returns nutrients back to the soil. Chop up old garden plants, along with grass clippings and fall leaves, to build your compost pile. Choose a shady spot, and moisten materials as you build your pile.

Or bury food scraps (to keep animals away) under garden beds all winter to improve the soil.

You can also learn how to compost kitchen scraps in a rodent-resistant worm bin. Weeds and diseased plants, along with dairy or meat scraps from the kitchen, should go into the City's yard- and-food-waste collection for hot composting.

In spring, you can use your compost or buy compost to enrich your soil for another year of growing.

Hoomisha Qoodadha!

Migira Sassaba oso isan gara sanyi indarbine. baruluee "days to maturity" fi fakkia akka sasabuuf qopha’e muldisu ilala ykn namota oddo qaban ka hawasa gandda keessani keessa jiran gaafadha, yoom akka sassabamu baruu.

Homisha keessan qoodadha. Yo ka nyachu danddeettaniin oli qabattan, gandda keessan wajjin qodadha ykn gara lakkofssa bilbilla oddo ykn websayit P-Patch fi Lettuce Link ilala, gara nyata iti badhaattan isini ni hima.

Sanyii kahadha, mukkeen baala qabani salpha. Muka sanyii kannisa gogssa. Mukkeen kudura qaban ka akka timatima fi squash, gara tokko gara birat ni rabsamu, kanaf sanyi turssuuun bu’a gari inqqabu tahe. Mala sanyi turssani fi gaafi bira wa’e oddo ilalchise lakkofsssa bilbilla oddoo, bilbilla.

Baati roobati oddo qopheessu

Baatiileen Birra yero oddo itti qulqulleeessan, mukeen du’an madabara tolchan, fi oddo harama j’a roba irra dhowwan fi akka roobi biyyo indhiqnnne itti ittisan.

Mukkeen agoogan, fakenyaf ka akka clover, baati Onkkoleesse(October) dhabamuun baati rooba ni biqlu. Kaneen, biyyo ni eegu, fi baatile mudde yo isin qottan biyyo nyata ni kenuu.

Sagaturan Baatile rooba bnakka isin mukeen baati roba ykn mukeen agoogan iti indhabbi hunduma ni agooga. Baala baati birra sassaba, 2-3 inches gag fageessa, biyyo akka agoogan godha. Mukken du’anille cicciruun, biyyo uffisu ni danddeettan.

Madabaran(Composting) nyata gara biyyo ni deebisa. Mukeen dulloman ka oddo keessa jiran, ciccira marra, fi baala baati birra, sasabuun tuula madabara(compost pile) qophiiffachu ni danddeettu. Bakka gaadisa qabu filadha, yero tuulttan jiisa.

Ykn haftu nyata awwala (bineensa ofi irra dhowwa), baati rooba guutu sire oddo jalat awwaaluun biyyo fooysesla.

Qoda anatuuta ofi irra dhowu keessat haftu kushina keessatni madabara mala tolchitaniin baru ni danddettu. Harama fi mukkeen dhukkuba qaban fi homishi anani fi footni, bakka magalan huura itti gatan keessa kahamuun achit akka madabarun owwan itti qopha’u godhamu qabu.

Baatile Muddee keesat, madabara qopheessu ykn waggaa itti’an mukkeen guddisuuf akka isin garrgaru madabara biyye fooysesule bitachu ni danddeettan.
### Easy Crops for Beginner Gardeners

**Warra oddo Hara jalaqabuu mukkeen salpha ta’an**

**plant seed = P = nyani facasa**

**transplant seedlings = T = sanyi gara biran dabrassa**

**harvest = H = sassaaba**

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#### Cool/hardy

- **Peas**
  - **Atara**
- **Lettuce, Spinach**
- **Potatoes**
- **Onions**
- **Bok Choi**
- **Beans**
- **Tomatoes**
- **Squash, Cucumber**
- **Cilantro**
- **Corn**

#### Heat Lovers

- **Beets**
- **Kale, Collards, Chard**
- **Cabbage**
- **Garlic**
- **Leeks**

#### Over-Wintering

- **Beets**
- **Kale, Collards, Chard**
- **Cabbage**
- **Garlic**
- **Leeks**

### Learn More about Gardening

**Questions? Call The Garden Hotline**

(Seattle Public Utilities) free brochures on soil, composting, watering, pest control, and more. Language interpretation available.

**206-633-0224**

email [help@gardenhotline.org](mailto:help@gardenhotline.org)

[www.gardenhotline.org](http://www.gardenhotline.org)

**206-684-0264**

email [p-patch.don@seattle.gov](mailto:p-patch.don@seattle.gov)

[www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/ppatch](http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/ppatch)

**P-Patch Program** of Seattle’s Department of Neighborhoods provides community garden spaces in many neighborhoods, at low or no cost. Translated classes. Everyone is welcome.

**206-684-0264**

email [p-patch.don@seattle.gov](mailto:p-patch.don@seattle.gov)

[www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/ppatch](http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/ppatch)

**City of Seattle’s Food website**

Find a garden space to share

[www.seattle.gov/food](http://www.seattle.gov/food)

Urban farming news and resources

[www.urbangardenshare.org](http://www.urbangardenshare.org)

**WSU Extension Master Gardeners**

[http://gardening.wsu.edu](http://gardening.wsu.edu)

[www.solid-ground.org/programs/nutrition/lettuce](http://www.solid-ground.org/programs/nutrition/lettuce)

[Lettuce Link](http://www.solid-ground.org/programs/nutrition/lettuce) information on gardening, sharing harvests, and **Gardening for Good Nutrition**

**Seattle Tilth** provides classes, demonstration gardens, volunteer opportunities, and **The Maritime Northwest Garden Guide**

[www.seattle.gov/parks/pufs](http://www.seattle.gov/parks/pufs)

[www.urbanfarmshare.org](http://www.urbanfarmshare.org)

**City of Seattle**

Created by Seattle Public Utilities with Department of Neighborhoods’ P-Patch Program and Seattle Tilth

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