

Compliments of
www.Growyourownfoodanywhere.com



Top 6 concerns when growing your own food

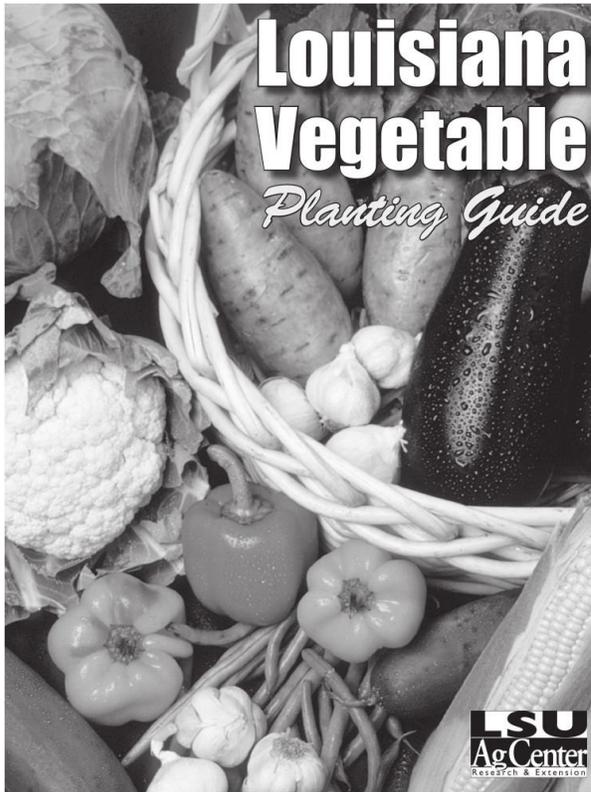
Congratulations! You have decided to grow your own food. I can tell you that you will be so happy that you made this decision. Warning: there will be failures along the way. Of course there will be great successes as well. You just need to keep working at it and find what is best for your location and lifestyle. But, there are a few concrete rules that must be followed.

1. Choose the proper location -



Most of the food you grow in a garden will require at least 6 hours of sunlight. This is the rule if you are growing in a traditional garden, in a [raised bed garden](#), in [containers](#) or in a [hydroponic](#) or aquaponic system. Make sure to locate your plants where they receive plenty of light. Of course if you are growing indoors you will need to substitute the appropriate artificial lighting for your plants needs. Lighting available includes fluorescent, hid and led lighting. I will not cover these in detail at this time.

2. Know the proper time of the year to grow each crop -



A lot of first time gardeners will try to plant seeds of cool weather crops in the summer season. This will just not work. On the other hand, you cannot grow summer crops in the winter unless you are growing them in a greenhouse and controlling the environment. There are several sources for help on this. Most extension offices will have garden planners such as pictured above. My state has a planner for spring and fall planting as well as recommendations as to which varieties do best in this area. If you are not sure where your local extension office is, just search for extension office "my town". This is a free service and they

are happy to help. The USDA is a great source for finding your growing zone. You can find the [USDA map here](#).

This will tell you when your last frost date is and also help you pick varieties that will do the best. A local nursery is a valuable point of information. A good reputable company will not sell you a plant that is out of season. They will probably also have seed packets available. Seed packets will give you a lot of information regarding planting times, spacing, etc. Just read the labels. Ask the clerks. Owners of small nurseries are very familiar with your local growing conditions.

3. Make sure you have the proper soil for the job -



If you are doing container gardening, you will want to use a lightweight potting mix or soilless mix. You do not want to dig the dirt out of your yard and shovel it into a container. For your garden soil you should be sure to add [compost](#) in the fall to aid in the nutrient value. If you are growing hydroponically make sure that you have the proper nutrients and that you mix them in the proper ratio.

4. Make sure you have easy access to water -



You don't want to be dragging a sprinkling can to your garden all year long. We prefer to use frost proof hydrants. That way we don't have to worry about freezing in the winter.

5. Start small -



I think this is just about the golden rule for anything you are trying for the first time. I grow a garden with 4 - 60' rows. I have been gardening for a long time. I would not even begin to tell someone new to start with a project this size. You will get burned out and walk away and that

would be a horrible shame. Start with 1 or 2 - 4' x 4' raised garden beds. Or, with a few containers. Pick foods that you eat and that are easily grown. You do not want to start with plants where the seeds need to be soaked and/ or etched and plants that will have all kinds of special needs. Start with easy crops - green beans, radishes, lettuce, herbs, etc. I find that tomatoes are not all that hard to grow, but they have a lot of pests and diseases that affect them. If you are going to grow tomatoes start with 1 or 2 plants, not 28 - 30 like I grow.

6. Keep a written log of what you are growing -



I have been doing this for years. Trust me, it comes in handy next year. I don't do anything fancy. I just use a plain piece of paper and draw my rows. I put the variety I have planted in the appropriate space with any notes such as - don't grow this again it failed miserably - or better yet, this is prolific grower and we love the taste!

We are thrilled with the fact that yet another person is interested in growing their own food. Join our community and follow our blog www.growyourownfoodanwhere.com for more information. We welcome questions or subjects you would like to see us discuss. Contact us at customerservice@advancegreenhouses.com with any questions or suggestions. ~ Tammy