

# 10 Tips for a Successful Vegetable Garden

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## 1. Seek Local Advice

- Aggie website: <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu>
- Central TX Horticulture: <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/travis/index.htm>
- [The Southern Kitchen Garden](#) by Bill Adams & Tom LeRoy
- [The Vegetable Book](#) by Dr. Sam Cotner
- [Organic Vegetable Gardening](#) by Howard Garrett & Malcolm Beck
- [Texas Bug Book](#) by Malcolm Beck & Howard Garrett

## 2. Find a Good Location

- 6-8 hours of sunlight
- select a location that is close and convenient to the kitchen

## 3. Ensure Adequate Moisture and Drainage

- locate garden near a source of water
- build raised beds
- use drip or soaker hoses

## 4. Build Healthy Soil

- strive for 8-12" of loose, friable soil
- perform a soil test, use fertilizer as indicated
- incorporate compost or other organic matter

## 5. Use Mulch

- retains water, controls weeds, regulates soil temperature

## 6. Plant the Right Plant at the Right Time

- cool season/warm season (first frost=mid-November, last freeze=mid-March)
- use recommended varieties

## 7. Monitor for Problems

- inspect your plants regularly

## 8. Control Pests and Disease

- resistant varieties
- proper sanitation
- diverse plantings
- crop rotation
- get to know the beneficial insects

## 9. Harvest at the Right Time

- pick at peak, morning is best
- harvest frequently to encourage blooms

## 10. Eat What You Grow

- vegetables = vitamins, minerals, fiber and anti-oxidants