

UC Marin Master Gardeners
Water Wise Edible Gardening
Plant Summary

Edibles that use residual water in the soil:

Asparagus; Artichoke, Broccoli: Blue Wind, Arcadia, Marathon, Di Ciccio, & Romanesco; Red Express Cabbage; Carrots; Chard; Cilantro; Collards; French and Red Sorrel; Garlic; Salad Greens; Toscano Kale; Onions; Sugar Peas; Fingerling Potatoes; Radishes; Turnips

Edibles that mature quickly (50-60 days) needing fewer days of irrigation:

Maximel Bush Beans; Emerite Runner Beans; Cylindra & Golden Beets; Broccoli; Red Express Cabbage; Carrots; Collards; Chard; Lemon & Persian Cucumber; Salad Greens: Millionaire Eggplant, Garlic; Yates Blue Curled Kale; Okra; Onions; Radishes; Early Girl, Sungold, & Stupice Tomatoes; Turnips; Zehpyr Summer Squash

High producing edibles:

Chard, Kale, Greens, Strawberries, Tomatoes, Zucchini

Less thirsty edibles:

Artichoke, Asparagus, Calendula, Cabbage, Carrots, Grapes, Mulberries, Lettuce, Purslane, Parsnips, Sweet Potatoes, Tepary Beans, Tomatoes

Mediterranean herbs:

Fennel, Lavender, Oregano, Thyme, Rosemary, Sage

Less thirsty fruit trees:

Fig, Goji Berry, Jujube, Loquat, Natal Plum, Olive, Persimmon, Pineapple guava, Pomegranate

Water wise native edibles:

Blue Elderberry, California Hazel Nut, Thimbleberry, Huckleberry, Golden Current, California Wild Grape, Sierra Gooseberry, Native Strawberries, Yerba Buena

Water wise mini cultivars:

Apple, Apricot, Blueberry, Cherry, Citrus, Fig, Pomegranate, Peach, Pear, Plum

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TOP 10 TAKE AWAYS

1. Water-wise edible gardening practices are **always** a good idea.
2. Make an **informed decision** about whether or not to plant an edibles garden during a drought. Review your past water usage, calculate your reduced water limits and decide how to use the water you have, both inside and out.
3. Care for your **mature and valuable** plants first before planting anything new.
4. **Water according to need.** Remember irrigation standards (such as 1"/plant /week) are **guidelines**. To successfully manage a water-wise edible garden, gardeners need to **consistently field check and monitor** soil moisture and irrigation equipment.
5. Compost and mulch.
6. **Know your soil** and how it moves water.
7. Plant a **smaller** garden, if necessary, to stay within your water restriction.
8. Grow edibles that **use less** water: (suggestions on back)
 - Plants that use residual water in the spring
 - Plants that mature quickly
 - Plants that are high producers
 - Plants that tolerate dry conditions
 - Mini-cultivars
9. Add **root depth** to your hydrozone planning.
10. Thoughtfully **plan and maintain** your irrigation system.