

Growing Your Own Food – Growing Cool Season Vegetables

Climate Zones

Question: I think we are technically in a "transitional" zone between Mendocino/coast and Comptche -- it gets both colder (at night) and warmer (in the day) than the coast. Do we just experiment to figure out when and how we can grow cold season stuff? Or gather data on temp, frost dates... ?

Yes, I get confused too, as to what zone we are...right off coast in Humboldt county, (Bayside)

Also, are there published garden calendars for the region, with approximate guidelines for what to start/transplant/harvest when?

what zone is Santa Rosa north west? is Santa Rosa just one zone?

If you go to your local Master Gardener website, they should have guideline as to what to grow and when in your area. Here's a link to climate zones:

http://cagardenweb.ucanr.edu/Your_Climate_Zone/http://cagardenweb.ucanr.edu/Your_Climate_Zone
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Temperature

When we talk about heat, that's different than hot sun during the day, correct? Heat means hot temps in a 24 hour period, right? I ask because I get full, hot sun during the day in Monte Rio (Lower Russian River Valley), but then at night it cools off. Would be OK for heat sensitive plants? In other words, do the cooler night temps provide respite?

what temperature is considered too warm for these cool season veggies? Air temperature or soil temperature?

Misc

Do you have any pointers on starting seeds?

On soil, we just moved to a place with older, raised beds build with pressure treated wood. When I replace the boards, do I need to replace all the soil or would it be OK to reuse any or all of the soil?

Do you have any pointers on starting seeds?

do you recommend companion planting?

confused.. potting soil verses compost planting. Do you plant transplants in compost and seeds in potting soil?

I'm a rhubarb junkie. Is there a variety that can be grown in our warm weather climate?

Is there a published list of N. CA Master Gardeners and their area of expertise?

interested in the rose nozzle...anyone have a link?

A spray bottle works well!

Comments and Resources

Experience does count! Thank you.

Peirce's Golden Gate Gardening has a good chapter about assessing your site's zone.

jkyle@mendocino.edu is a link to the Mendocino College plant sale.

Asking neighbors who garden is a good way to get super local info

And I do know the folks at the Botanical Gardens are super-helpful!! :)

Gardening on the Mendocino Coast facebook page is helpful too

Planting fall transplants from the Mendo College plant sale, has usually not worked well for me even when transplanted right away. They seem to struggle all winter then go to seed with the first warm days in Feb. in Potter Valley. Do you think this has to do with lack of nutrients (fertilizer) or would it help them to put up shade cloth, or just get transplants or seed them myself much earlier.

the seedlings from the Mendocino College Fall Vegetable sale are sold beginning of October, but ideally should be planted at least a month earlier in many counties (such as Lake...) in order to reach maturity before the cold sets in. Start your own earlier!

'Jericho' is a super heat tolerant lettuce.

For Sakina's Garden newsletter email sakina@mcn.org

Is "The Whole Seed Catalogue" available for free? I see it on Amazon for \$18. – You can order one from Petaluma Seed Bank, it is free

IPM information here: <http://ipm.ucanr.edu/>

to find the Master Gardeners of any particular County, type into your URL: ce(County name). ucanr.edu (such as: cemendocino.ucanr.edu - on the page that comes up, click on Master Gardeners on the left hand menu!

Gardens Project sends seeds out, also Nye Ranch on coast for starts farmstead offerings usually, also FBUSD garden has starts from coast as well.

Cats love a newly planted bed too! I lay wire fencing over as new bed.