

Q&A Vegetable Garden Basics

1. I don't have any outdoor space, so I have all of my items in pots - do any of these recommendations change based on that? It is my opinion that everything we learn can be applied to all garden types with a little common sense. With containers, plants are in a bubble that makes their environment a little more needy and changeable. The details are just a little more immediately important and delicate. So a little over watering can be magnified much more in a pot than in the ground. A little lighter hand and better observation of reactions, pests are needed. For houseplants, tune into one of upcoming programs.
2. I came in a bit late, which website are we referring to? The Master Gardeners Website <https://ucanr.edu/sites/hdnmastergardeners/> Check out this page for the resources we were mentioning [https://ucanr.edu/sites/hdnmastergardeners/Resources for Home Gardeners/](https://ucanr.edu/sites/hdnmastergardeners/Resources%20for%20Home%20Gardeners/)
3. Would need any water in the jar in the fridge of extra seeds? – No, you want to keep the seeds dry.
4. Could too much nitrogen in my soil be keeping my lemon tree from producing lemons? Yes but nitrogen is very soluble and leaches out quickly. Maybe other nutrients like potassium which is good for fruiting might be the issue instead.
5. Just pulled garlic from raised bed, what do I need to prepare for planting a lettuce crop. Just add some compost and go for it. Since lettuce and garlic are not similar plants, diseases that might accumulate over the growing season won't find a new target. I would not plant onions after garlic. They potentially can share the same problems.
6. Are there any plans to start a new master gardener training class for our area in 2020? We are wanting to offer MG Certification training for both Del Norte and Humboldt. However, currently it is difficult to make any plans with COVID protocols changing frequently. We are hoping late 2021 or first of 2022.
7. What does it mean when a plant is yellowing at the tips of the leaves? Depends on plant, season, exposure, etc. Hard to know.
8. What is the best way to test for soil moisture? Put your finger into the soil 2-3 inches.

9. How can we tell when our plant has a deficiency in an essential nutrient? (N,P,K) If the plant is in a container, I usually give it some TLC like repotting, light fertilizer, watering to see if it will respond. Sometimes that's enough. It can be complicated since different conditions can appear similar. Assuming watering is not the issue. If it responds to compost or a light dose of organic fertilizer, than nutrients were in short supply. Never just add a lot of stuff, especially micronutrients. If it can't absorb nutrients that are there, a disease issue at the roots may be happening if a thorough survey for pests on foliage comes up empty. For a larger number of plants side by side failing together, disease and nutrient problems may be the problem. Soil testing is the only way to really know.

10. Any veggie to plant now that is less likely to be eaten by gophers? – Not really. We recommend using raised beds and line the bottom with chicken wire. This is helpful, but not always fool proof. I have had gophers climb into raised beds and start their tunneling.

11. I am determined to have large sweet tomatoes this year, any tips? I use pots and I'm considering a green house. This depends on many factors, variety, climate, cultural care, etc. Tomatoes LOVE heat. Here is a link on everything to know about being successful <https://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/pdf/8159.pdf> and <http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/GARDEN/VEGES/tomato.html>

12. Just pulled Leeks planted in Nov. the stems are hard, pulled too late? Hard as in dried out? Are they white with good looking roots? Leeks take six months to mature. Might have been past ready if they survived wintering over. Generally planted in spring from early starts and harvested in fall. Foliage should still be green after six months. Trenching (burying deeper as growth gets taller) increases the length of the white stem.

13. Should you grow flowers next to your garden, if so what are good options? Growing flowers next to your garden is wonderful. It attracts pollinators and you! Choose flowers that are edible or have insect repellent possibilities. If you enjoy arranging or having fresh flowers in the house or to give to friends, include those as well. Remember some flowers are annuals and some are perennials. They need planting to be accordingly. Perennials need a permanent place to grow. Some to consider: Marigolds, zinnias, nasturtiums, sweet peas, many more for arranging.