

Jennie Miller

Comp I

Process Paper

August 22, 2018

How to Plan a Spring Garden

Growing your own vegetables can be an edifying hobby. Instead of buying fresh produce at the grocery store each week, many fruits and vegetables can be grown in the backyard with a bit of hard work and a watchful eye. However, in order to be successful, gardening takes preparation. Planning a spring garden requires sufficient space, minimal tools and supplies, and a desire to learn about the unique needs of each vegetable or fruit.

Once you decide what plants you would like to include in the garden, it is important to research the amount of space each one requires. Some plants, such as Japanese eggplant, require approximately two square feet of space to grow. On the other hand, strawberries must be planted at least 20 inches apart with four feet between each row. Zucchini is another plant that requires significant space as they can grow to be five or six square feet in diameter. Another consideration to make when choosing the right space for a garden includes knowing which plants need full sunlight versus which plants require partial sun. Likewise, some plants require a specific set of nutrients to grow strong, while others require a different balance of nutrients. Planting a garden without knowing what each plant needs in terms of space and soil can lead to wasted money and time, not to mention discouragement.

There is no need to spend hundreds of dollars on fancy equipment when only takes basic tools to get a garden started. Basic tools include a shovel, trowel, and spade for digging, and a

small rake and pair of clippers for weeding. Gloves come in handy for those who don't want to get too dirty, not to mention that some plants have a strong odor, such as tomato plants, which can linger on skin. If the garden is planted away from the house, then a longer hose may be needed for regular watering.

The final requirement for planning a spring garden is to know which plants are compatible and which ones are combative. While it might be tempting to make the most of the garden space and place plants as close together as possible, it is helpful to know which plants complement each other and which ones should be planted on opposite ends of the garden. Plant compatibility has to do with insect deterrence, inhibiting growth, and nutrient requirements. For example, tomatoes and basil should always be placed next to each other, but cabbage and broccoli are combative. Also, never plant a garden next to a walnut tree, as it emits a chemical that inhibits growth of other plants in its perimeter. Researching the specific needs of the vegetables and fruits you want to grow will help shape the design of a spring garden.

Planning a spring garden can take more effort than tending to a garden because the preparations involve research and calculations. You may also need to purchase a few extra tools to ensure efficient planting. Once the measurements have been made and the design has been finalized, all that's left is the planting, regular watering, intermittent maintaining, and picking fresh-from-the-garden veggies.