



Improving Lives. Improving Texas.

Fall Vegetable Gardening

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Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service

Preparation is Key



Plan

- ❖ Space
- ❖ Soil
- ❖ Crop Requirements (light, space, water, etc.)
- ❖ Labor Requirements
- ❖ Goals



Soil

- Know Your Existing Soil's Characteristics

- Nutrient Values (N, P, K, Organic Matter, pH)

- Consistency – Heavy Clay or Sand???

- Heavy soils may require additional amendments to make them more workable (washed sand or gypsum – calcium sulfate)

- Sandy soils (all soils!) benefit from incorporating organic material in with them (hay, compost rotten grass clippings, leaves 2-3 inches deep and work /till into soil)

- SOIL TEST, SOIL TEST, SOIL TEST!!! -

<http://soiltesting.tamu.edu/>

Fertilizers

- Fertilize to meet soil test recommendations
- If no soil test –
 - Utilize generic “slow release” garden fertilizer at 3 pounds per 100 square feet
 - If alternative fertilizer is used (manure) – apply at 20 – 50 pounds per 100 square feet several weeks before planting
 - Additional Fertilization – use ammonium sulfate (21-0-0)
 - ❑ cucumbers, cantaloupes, eggplants, okra, peas, beans, peppers, squash and tomatoes will require around 1 ½ ounces (3 tablespoons) per 10 feet of row after first fruit set, after first harvest, and every 3 – 4 weeks thereafter
 - ❑ broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, collards, lettuce, mustard, spinach and turnip greens will require around 2 ounces (4 tablespoons) per 10 feet of row 2 weeks after transplanting or 4 weeks after sowing seed
 - ❑ Remember sandy soils may require more frequent fertilization than heavy clays and excessive fertilization may reduce yield and lower quality

Crop Requirements

- Different plants require different amounts of space (be careful of vine plants)
- Plant North – South to avoid shading lower growing plants out
- Drip irrigation most efficient garden irrigation available



Drip Irrigation



Light Requirements

- Require 6+ Hours of Sunlight
 - Fruiting Vegetables
 - Tomatoes, Peppers, Beans & Peas, Cucumbers, Eggplants, Okra, Squash
 - Root Crops
 - Carrots, Beets, Turnips, Onion, Potatoes
- Can Tolerate Partial Shade
 - Cole Crops
 - Broccoli, Cauliflower, Collards, Kale, Brussels Sprouts,
 - Other Leafy Greens
 - Lettuce, Spinach, Cabbage

Other Tips/Options

- Raised Bed Gardening
- Container Gardening
- Plant Recommended Varieties for “Our” Area
- **USE MULCHES!!!**
- Keep Records
- Have Fun!!!



Raised Bed Construction



Caldwell County Recommended Varieties



VEGETABLE VARIETIES FOR CALDWELL COUNTY

Feb 2004

VEGETABLE CATEGORY VARIETY

ARTICHOKE
GREEN GLOBE

ASPARAGUS
UC 157
JERSEY GIANT
JERSEY GEM

BEANS
BUSH
CONTENDER
DERBY
FLORENCE
GREENCROP
JADE
PROVIDER
ROMA II
TENDERCROP
TOPCROP
POLE
LANDFRAUEN
McCASLAN
NORTHEASTER
LIMA
DIXIE BUTTERPEA
FORDHOOK
HENDERSON
JACKSON WONDER

BEETS
CHIOGGA
DETROIT RED
PACEMAKER
RED ACE

BROCCOLI
CALABRESE
EMERALD
GREEN COMET
PACKMAN
PREMIUM CROP

BRUSSELS SPROUTS
JADE CROSS
PRINCE MARVEL

CABBAGE
EARLY JERSEY WAKEFIELD
GOLDEN ACRE
RUBY BALL
SAVOY EXPRESS

CHINESE
JADE PAGODA
JOI CHOI
MEI QING CHOI
MICHILI
MONUMENT
TWO SEASONS

CANTALOUPE
AMBROSIA
HALES BEST
MAGNUM 45
MAINSTREAM
TAM UVALDE

CARROTS
CHANTENAY RED CORE
DANVERS 126
LITTLE FINGER
NELSON
NANTES

CAULIFLOWER
SNOW CROWN
SNOWBALL Y

CHARD, SWISS
BRIGHT LIGHTS
FORDHOOK
LUCULLUS
RHUBARB RED

COLLARDS
GEORGIA SOUTHERN
VATES

CORN
HOW SWEET IT IS
KANDY KORN
MERIT HYBRID
SILVER QUEEN

CUCUMBER,
PICKLING
CALYPSO
CAROLINA
SLICING
ASHLEY
DASHER II
POINSETT 76
SUYO

STRAIGHT EIGHT
SWEET SUCCESS
SWEET SLICE

EGGPLANT
BLACK BEAUTY
BLACKNITE
FLORIDA MARKET
ICHIBAN
NEON
PING TUNG LONG
MEGAL

GARLIC
ELEPHANT
TEXAS WHITE

GREENS, SPECIALTY
COOL SEASON
ARUGULA
CORN SALAD/MACHE
CURLY ENDIVE
FRISEE
RADICCHIO
TATSOI
WARM SEASON
LAMB'S-QUARTER
MALABAR SPINACH
MOLOKHIA
NEW ZEALAND SPINACH
VEGETABLE AMARANTH

KALE
DWARF BLUE CURLED
VATES
RED RUSSIAN
TOSCANO LACINATO

KOHLRABI
EARLY PURPLE VIENNA
EARLY WHITE VIENNA
GRAND DUKE

LEEKS
AMERICAN FLAG
KING RICHARD

LETTUCE
HEAD
GREAT LAKES
LEAF & BIBB
BLACK SEEDED SIMPSON
BRONZE MIGNONETTE
BUTTERCRUNCH
ERMOZA
LOLLA ROSSA
OAKLEAF
PARRIS ISLAND COS ROMAINE
RED SAILS
RUBY RED
SALAD BOWL
TANGO
WINTER DENSITY

MUSTARD
FLORIDA BROADLEAF
OSAKA PURPLE
MIZUNA
TENDERGREEN

OKRA
BABY BUBBA
CAJUN DELIGHT
CLEMSON SPINELESS
COWHORN
EMERALD
LEE

ONION
BULBING
GRANO 1015Y
WHITE GRANEX
RED GRANEX
RED BURGUNDY
BUNCHING
BELTSVILLE BUNCHING
EVERGREEN WHITE

PARSLEY
CHAMPION MOSS CURLED
ITALIAN FLAT LEAF

PEAS
ENGLISH
LITTLE MARVEL
WANDO
SNAP
SUGAR BON
SUGAR SNAP
SNOW
SNOW GREEN
OREGON GIANT
SOUTHERN
BLACKKEY #5
MISSISSIPPI SILVER
PURPLE HULL

ZIPPER CREAM
TEXAS PINKEYE
CREAM 40

PEPPER
HOT
HABANERO
HUNGARIAN WAX
MEXIBELL
MUCHO NACHO JALAPENO
NUMEX JOE PARKER
SEÑORITA MILD JALAPENO
TAM JALAPENO
SERRANO
VERA CRUZ JALAPENO
SWEET
BIG BERTHA
CALIFORNIA WONDER
JUPITER
KEYSTONE GIANT
SWEET BANANA
YOLO WONDER

POTATOES, IRISH
KENNEBEC (WHITE)
RED LASOTA
RED PONTIAC
RUSSIAN BANANA FINGERLING

POTATOES, SWEET
CENTENNIAL
JEWEL

PUMPKINS
ASPEN
BABY BEAR MINI
BIG MAX
CONNECTICUT FIELD
JACK-B-LITTLE MINI
JACK-O-LITE
SMALL SUGAR PIE

RADISH
CHERRY BELLE
EARLY SCARLET GLOBE
MISATO ROSE RED MEAT
WHITE ICICLE
DAIKON
MIYASHIGE

SPINACH
BLOOMSDALE
HYBRID 7
MELODY
OZARKA II

SQUASH
SUMMER
BUTTERSTICK
COSTATA ROMANESCO

DIXIE
EARLY YELLOW CROOKNECK
KUTA
MAGDA ZUCCHINI
MULTIPIK
PRESIDENT ZUCCHINI
SUNBURST PATTY PAN
WHITE BUSH SCALLOP

WINTER
BLACK FOREST KABOCHA
BUTTERCUP KABOCHA
CARNIVAL ACORN
DELICATA
EARLY BUTTERNUT
SWEET MAMA KABOCHA
TABLE ACE ACORN
TABLE QUEEN ACORN
VEGETABLE SPAGHETTI
WALTHAM BUTTERNUT

TOMATOES
BETTER BOY
CARNIVAL
CELEBRITY
CHAMPION
DONA
EARLY GIRL
FIRST LADY
FLORAMERICA
GREEN ZEBRA
HEATWAVE
JACKPOT
MERCED
PRESIDENT
YELLOW STUFFER

CHERRY
JULIET
RED CHERRY
RED CURRANT
RED PEAR
SMALL FRY
SWEET MILLION
SWEET 100
YELLOW PEAR
PASTE
ROMA
VIVA ITALIA

TURNIP
PURPLE TOP
SEVEN TOP
SHOGGIN
TOKYO CROSS

WATERMELON
BLACK DIAMOND
CHARLSETON GRAY
CRIMSON SWEET
GOLDEN CROWN
JUBILEE
SUGAR BABY

Great Planning Resource

http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/publications/guides/E-502_home_vegetable_guide.pdf

Fall Frost Date

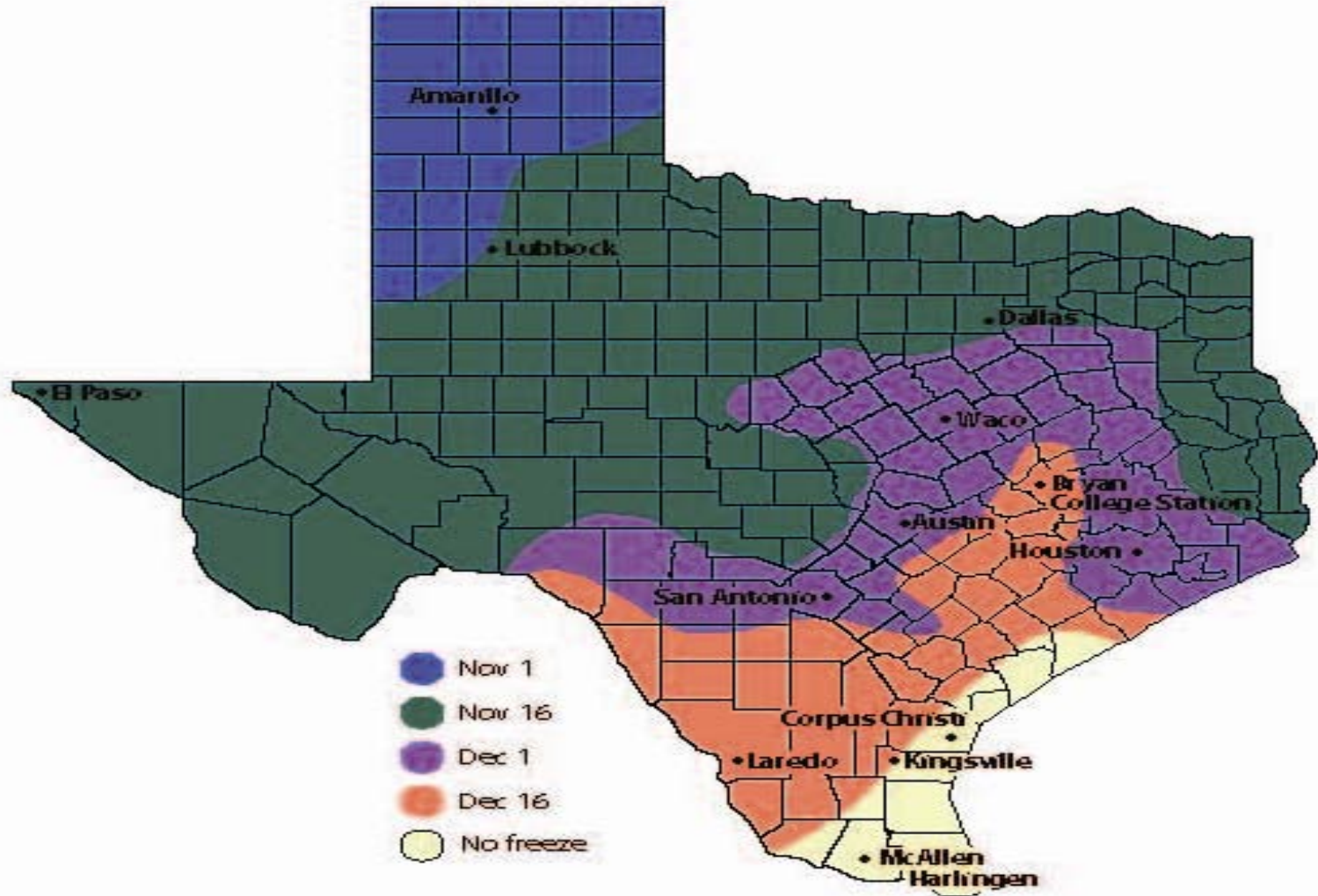


Figure 2. Average date of first fall frost.

Spring Frost Date

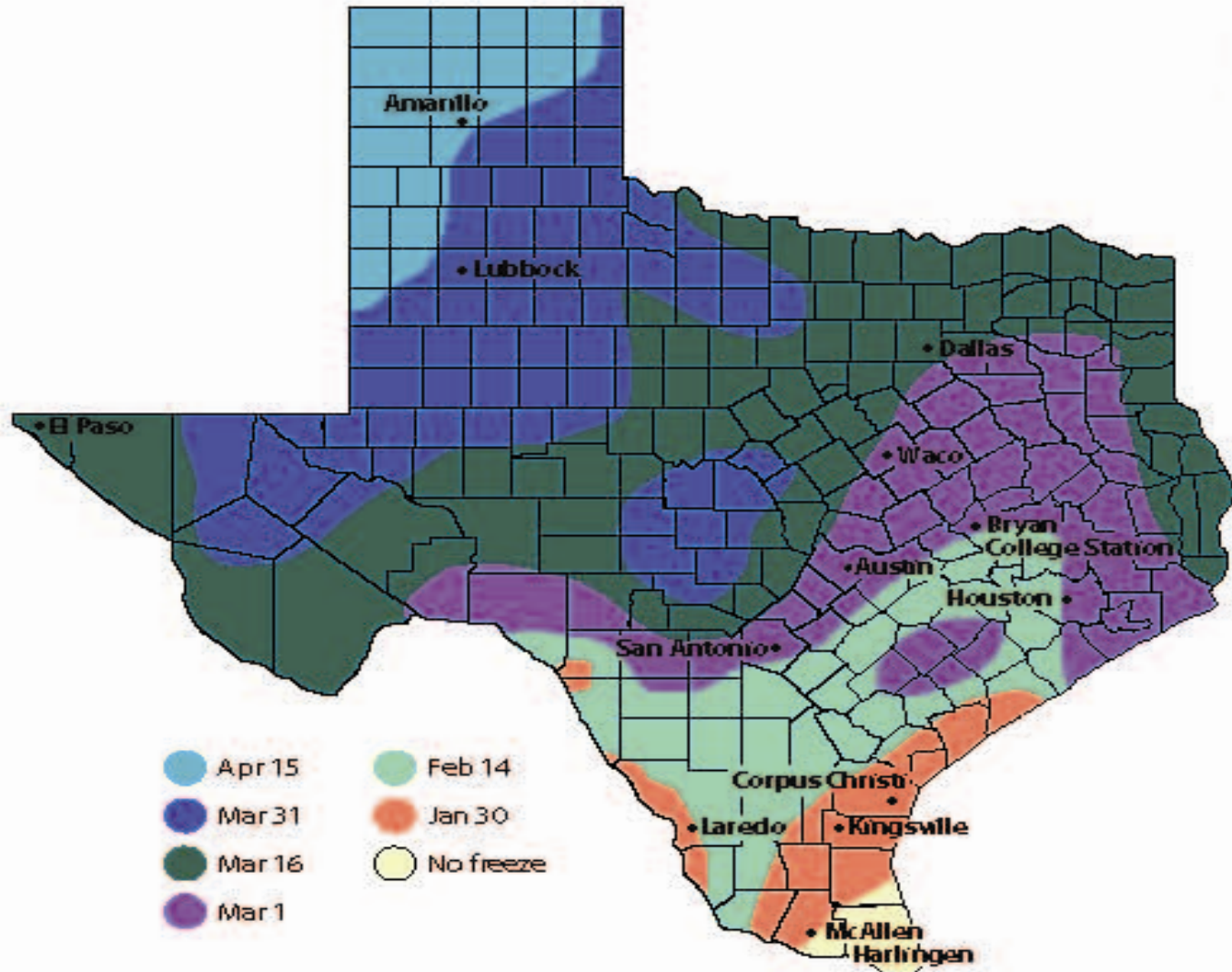


Figure 1 . Average date of last spring frost.

Cool Season Vegetables



Asparagus

- Plant mid January to February
- Need well-drained soil high in organic matter
- Use high nitrogen fertilizer
- Short harvests in spring and fall
- Size of spears indication of plant vigor

Planting Asparagus



Beets

- Plant mid September to October and mid-January to February
- Quick Maturing (30-60 days)
- Frost Tolerant



Broccoli

- Plant mid-August to mid-September and mid-January to February
- Easy Transplanter
- Moderate Maturing (60-80 days)
- Frost-Tolerant



Brussels Sprouts

- Plant end of August to mid- September and mid-January to February
- Slow Maturing (80+ days)
- Frost Tolerant



Cabbage

- Plant mid-August to mid-September and mid-January to February
- Slow Maturing (80+ days)
- Frost Tolerant



Carrots

- Plant mid-August to first of September and mid-January to February
- Seeds need light to germinate
- Thin out stands
- Love regular light applications of N
- Moderate Maturing (60-80 days)



Cauliflower

- Plant mid-August to mid-September
- Slow Maturing (80+ days)
- Frost Tolerant



Collards/Kale

- Plant first of September to first of October and mid-January to mid-February
- Moderate Maturing (60-80 days)
- Frost Tolerant



Garlic

- Plant mid-October to first of November
- Plant cloves 4-6 inches apart
- Love small frequent applications of N
- Harvest roots and tops as needed
- Slow Maturing (80+ days)



Kohlrabi

- Plant first of August to first of September and mid-January to mid-February
- Moderate Maturing (60-80 days)
- Frost Tolerant



Lettuce

- Plant end of August to September and mid-January to mid-March
- Wait for soil to cool
- Seeds need light to germinate
- Quick Maturing (30-60 days)



Mustards

- Plant mid-August to mid-September
- Quick Maturing (30-60 days)
- Frost Tolerant



Onions

- Plant PLANTS end of December to February
- Plant SEED end of September to first of October and first of January to mid-January
- Sweet Onions Need LOW Sulfur Soil
- Love Small Applications of N



English Peas

- Plant first of September to mid-November
- Need Moderately Fertile Soil
- Trellis???
- Moderate Maturing (60-80 days)



Radish

- Plant first of October to end of November and mid-January to end of March
- Quick Maturing (30-60 days)
- Frost Tolerant



Rhubarb

- Start seeds in September
- Plant transplants in October
- Protect from hard freezes



Spinach

- Plant end of July to mid-November and first of January to end of February
- Quick Maturing (30-60 days)
- Frost Tolerant



Turnips

- Plant first of September to mid-November and mid-January to mid-February
- Quick Maturing (30-60 days)
- Frost Tolerant



Warm Season Vegetables



Green (Snap) Bush Beans/Lima (Butter) Bush Beans



- Plant mid-September to the first of October
- Need moderately fertile soil
- Best to harvest snap beans when pods are young and tender; butter beans when pods are fully mature

Green (Snap) Pole Beans/Lima (Butter) Pole Beans



- Plant first of August to end of August
- Moderately fertile soil
- Best to harvest snap beans when pods are young and tender; butter beans when pods are fully mature

Sweet Corn



- Plant end of August to first of September
- Fertilize at planting, 1 foot tall, and at tassel with 21-0-0 ½ - 1 cup per 10 foot of row
- Remember – 90% will be harvested the same day
- Plant in multiple rows

Cucumbers



- Plant first of September to end of September
- Moderate fertility
- Trellis?
- Harvest for pickling when fruit reaches desired size

Eggplant



- Plant first of August to first of September
- Slow maturing (80+ days)
- 2 – 3 plants per person

Melons



- Plant first of August to end of August
- Moderate fertility
- Trellis? – melons require large spaces
- Harvest when tendril at base turns brown

Okra



- Plant first of August to first of September
- Moderate fertility
- Best to harvest when pods are small and tender
- Moderate maturing

Peppers



- Plant first of August to first of September
- Moderate maturing
- 3 – 5 plants per person
- Length of harvest around 90 days

Southern Peas



- Plant first of September to end of September
- Prefer warm soil
- Moderate fertility
- Harvest when pods are mature (start to yellow)
- Build Deer Blind

Irish Potato



- Plant first of August to end of August and mid-January to February
- Slow maturing (80+ days)
- 50 – 100 foot of row per person

Summer/Winter Squash



- Plant end of August to first of September
- Moderate fertility
- Harvest winter squash when mature (rind hard)
- Harvest summer squash when tender and immature

Swiss Chard



- Plant first of August to first of September and end of January to mid-February
- Quick maturing (30-60 days)
- 3-5 plants per person

Tomato



- Plant end of August to first of September
- Slow maturing (80+ days)
- 3-5 plants per person
- Tomato Problem Solver
<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/publications/tomatoproblemsolver/>

In Closing

- Always group plants of similar maturity and harvest lengths together so these plants can be removed when they have completed growing season. Leaving these plants can lead to additional disease/insect issues.

THANK YOU! Questions???

Additional Resources

- <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/>
- <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/travis/>
- <http://caldwell-tx.tamu.edu/>