

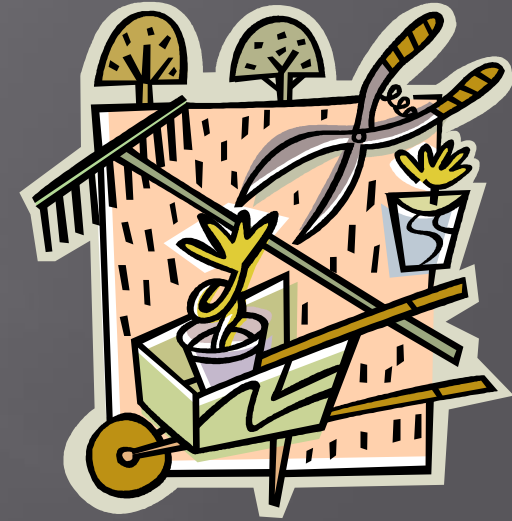
SITE SELECTION/PREPARATION

LEARN TO GROW

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Gardens are already placed

1. Do you have 6+ hours of sunlight?
2. Can you block/prevent the late afternoon sun?
3. Did you avoid the south and SW side of trees and structures?



Areas of concern

Enough sun

Topography – level but not hold water

Access – No obstructions to work around

Water accessibility

Avoid the south and SW side of buildings and trees because of reflective heat form the afternoon sun.

What if I'm in the wrong space?

- ▣ Can be moved ahead of planting
- ▣ Expansion
- ▣ Unforeseen drainage issue



If obstacles arise the gardens may be moved but planning ahead for site selection will save a lot of work. Be sure to consider future expansion.

Preparation

- Soil is placed - so water it to settle and pack down soil (including tubs if you choose to use them)
- Drill several holes in bottom of tubs (drainage)
- Tubs need to be filled $\frac{3}{4}$ full or more with soil
- Before planting loosen top 6 inches of soil



Soil Nutrients

- ▣ Soil provided is complete
- ▣ Future soil amendments
 - this year
 - * Nitrogen only
 - following years
 - * Complete fertilizer
 - * Nitrogen only

Fertilizer to start should not be needed. Later in growing season use miracle grow plant food. Avoid granular fertilizer because of the small area we are working with (over fertilizing) and because of working with the children. For following years miracle grow should provide all the nutrients the garden needs.

Composting

- ▣ Do you compost? If so
 - Plan ahead
 - Save on fertilizer

In the fall, placing compost on the garden is ok but don't apply too much and work into the soil before planting. Keeping pets out of the garden and not over composting will prevent a buildup of phosphorus in the soil. Over years this can decrease production.



Growing Techniques

Tomatoes



Stakes



Cages

All methods are good just pick the one that suits you the best. Cages are probably the easiest, just move the vine as the plant grows upward. The other methods require tying the plant to the stake or wire and will need routine maintenance.



Trellis

Resources

<http://osufacts.okstate.edu>

- ▣ HLA - 6004 Oklahoma Garden Planning Guide
- ▣ HLA - 6009 Fall Gardening
- ▣ HLA - 6013 Summer Care of the Home Vegetable Garden
- ▣ HLA - 6033 Raised Bed Gardening
- ▣ County OSU Extension Office

