

Helpful Vegetable Gardening Publications

from Oregon State University Extension Service

The following publications on home gardening and soils are available free on-line from the Oregon State University Extension Service (extension.oregonstate.edu).

Vegetable Gardening

Growing Your Own. OSU Publication EM 9027. April 2011. A practical guide to gardening in Oregon, featuring vegetable varieties, planting dates, insect control, soil preparation and more.

Vegetable Gardening in Oregon. OSU Publication EC 871. Revised August 2005. Another practical guide to gardening in Oregon in a more abbreviated form than Publication EM 9027.

Fall and Winter Vegetable Gardening in the Pacific Northwest. OSU Publication PNW 548. June 2001. A guide to growing vegetables in the fall and winter. This is a joint publication of Oregon State University, Washington State University and the University of Idaho. It addresses a variety of Pacific Northwest climate zones.

Vegetable Variety Trials. OSU Publication 8777-10. Revised April 2010. Recommended vegetable varieties for the home garden based on field trials at the Oregon State University vegetable farm in Corvallis.

Healthy Gardening. Oregon Health Authority Publication OHA 8612. October 2013. A fact sheet that provides basic advice for growing food in areas where there may be concerns about environmental contamination. Learn how you can enjoy the health benefits of gardening while protecting yourself from contaminants commonly found in soil.

Soils

A Guide to Collecting Soil Samples for Farms and Gardens. Publication EC 628. Revised October 2018. A practical guide to how to collect a soil sample from your yard or garden.

Analytical Laboratories Serving Oregon. OSU Publication EM 8677. June 2017. A list of soil testing laboratories serving Oregon with a description of the types of tests conducted by each laboratory. Addresses and other contact information are provided.



Fertilizing Your Garden: Vegetables, Fruits, and Ornamentals. OSU Publication EC 1503. April 2000. This publication will help you ensure that your plants receive ample levels of all nutrients for optimum yield, quality, and aesthetic value. It discusses factors involved in plant growth, types of fertilizer and how much fertilizer to apply.

Soil Test Interpretation Guide. OSU Publication EC 1478. July 2011. This fact sheet explains how to interpret the analytical results received from a soil testing laboratory.

Applying Lime to Raise Soil pH for Crop Production (Western Oregon). OSU Publication EM 9057. May 2013. A detailed explanation of the use of lime to raise soil pH. Target audience is agricultural production, but a good publication if you want to do a deep dive into the topic.

Improving Garden Soils with Organic Matter. OSU Publication EC 1561. May 2003. This publication will help you understand the importance of soil organic matter levels to good plant performance. It also contains suggestions for suitable organic soil amendments.

Mulches and Cover Crops

Cover Crops for Home Gardens West of the Cascades. Washington State University Fact Sheet FS111E. 2014. A great resource for understanding both winter and summer cover crops for home gardens located west of the Cascades.

Methods for Successful Cover Crop Management in Your Home Garden. Washington State University Fact Sheet FS119E. More information on how to manage a cover crop, such as when and how to cut, whether till it under or leave as a mulch, how to interplant with another crop, and more.

Mulching Woody Ornamentals with Organic Materials. OSU Publication EC 1629E, March 2009. As the title indicates the emphasis is mulches for woody ornamentals, but some of the principles described apply to vegetable gardens as well.