



Intro to Gardening

Soil Health:

- Most important part of gardening - Healthy soil = healthy plants
- Practice no till, regenerative gardening.
- [Soil Food Web](#) to learn more info about soil health and microbes

Garden Placement:

- Choose a location that is convenient and visible (Zone 1 - close to the house, somewhere easy to visit everyday)
- Easy access to water - plan your irrigation first, then your crops.
- If possible, morning sun, afternoon shade
- Shade cloth
 - AZ Bag Company
 - 30 - 50% shade cloth
 - March to November

Raised Bed Setup:

- Depth should be at least 12"
- Leave the bottom of bed open, no plastic liners
- Fill half way up with mulch, then raised bed mix.
- Teamed up with Angela "Growing in the Garden" to make the perfect raised bed mix.
 - 5% castings & rock dust
 - 45% compost
 - 25% perlite
 - 25% coco coir
- After planting, top with approx 2" mulch

Watering Your Garden:

- Irrigation Supplies - <https://www.dripdepot.com/>
- Drip tape or soaker hose
- Timer - easy to program & battery powered. Change batteries every 6-9 mos. Orbit is a favorite
- Use finger as a probe, best to test moisture
- Keep soil evenly moist

- Too wet = root rot
- Too dry = dead worms, microbes and plants

Choose what to plant:

- Always use a local planting guide such as [Maricopa County Vegetable Planting Guide](#), or purchase Angela's picture illustrated calendar.
- Choose things you and your family enjoy eating that are in season.

Worm Bin:

- Eliminate food waste
- Worms aerate the soil and fertilize your garden

Plant Pollinators:

- Flowering herbs
- Bright beneficial flowers every season
- Attract beneficial insects

Pest Control:

- Soap Mix
 - 2 tbs Bronner's peppermint soap
 - 1 tbs rubbing alcohol
 - Water
- Don't spray regularly, too much can cause more harm than good.
- Still infested after spraying twice, pull it, and throw it away or feed to chickens. Do not compost infested plants.