



# Tips for planning your Texas Garden

## Location, location, location

Vegetable crops must have at least 8 hours of direct sun per day and should be planted in areas where the soil drains well. Fall and Spring planting may be done in the same area as long as drainage and sunlight remain consistent.

## Prep soil

Pull out all plant material from your garden area. For new garden areas, be sure to remove all grass. Tilling alone is not sufficient to eliminate grass that may continue to grow and interfere with your garden. The same holds true for raised bed gardening. Be sure to remove all turf before building your frame and filling with soil.

## Time to Dig

After removing all grass, shovel the garden area to a depth of 10-12 inches. You may use a tiller to break up and mix shoveled areas but rototilling alone will not provide adequate depth.

## Improve soil

Spread 2 to 3 inches of organic matter and till into the soil to improve soil quality. Fertilize your soil with either 1 pound ammonium sulfate (21-0-0) per 100 square feet or 2 to 3 pounds of a slow release fertilizer (19-5-9, 21-7-14, or 25-5-10) per 100 square feet. Fully composted horse or cattle manure may be substitute for commercial fertilizers at a rate of 60-80 pounds per 100 square feet.

## Water

Water the entire garden area a sprinkler for at least two hours. Allow the area to dry for several days and it will be ready to plant.

