Cornell Cooperative Extension
Cornell Garden-Based Learning

Recommended Site Prep for 2022 Vegetable Variety Trial Gardens

SOIL: Use whatever garden soil medium you have available, avoiding problem soils or areas that may have contamination.

- If building raised beds: They can be constructed on top of the recently established lawn. Fill: 1/3 compost & 2/3 topsoil mix for the beds. To fill nine 3' x 3' raised beds @12 inches high, you will need about 80 cubic feet of soil,or two small pick up truck loads.
- We recommend conducting a soil test of your soil.
- You can see a simple design and short video of the 2012 Vegetable Variety Demo Garden from the Cornell campus here: **https://vimeo.com/40673839**

LAYOUT: You can use the 9 bed design or design to suit your site but you should retain the basic 3x3 planting space and plant layout for each bed.

1) Stake out 15' x 15' foot area, and each 3' x 3' bed area
2) Aerate the soil with a garden fork and place cardboard over the entire site
3) Lay down approximately 2" of woodchips
4) Construct raised beds and fencing for the site, put in place and fill with soil/compost mix
5) Add an additional 2 - 4" of woodchips to the path areas between beds

RAISED BEDS: CGBL used milled 2" x 6" x 12' *black locust* to construct our raised beds. (Black locust is a non-treated, rot resistant wood safe for growing food. If this is not available, use **untreated** lumber or another rot-resistant wood. Do NOT use pressure treated lumber. It does last longer but can be toxic to grow edibles in.) To construct 9 beds approximately 108 feet of board is needed. You can simply mark out 3' x 3' spaces in existing beds, adapt existing raised beds, or construct beds from whatever materials are readily available and affordable.

FENCING: Our fencing is approximately 4' tall and consists of small diameter black locust posts sunk 24" into the ground (6' total length), with posts every 5 feet. We fit cross pieces and then line the fenced area with black plastic deer netting – which we plan to replace with something stronger in the future to allow for vertical growing. This equates to needing twelve posts, sixteen crosspieces, and 60 feet of 4' deer netting.

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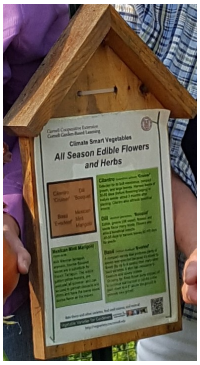
SIGNAGE: Should be displayed with each bed. It can be found in Cornell Box - the link is on the VVTG website: http://gardening.cals.cornell.edu/vvtg/

Print signage in color on 8.5 X 11 sheets with information for each garden bed (5 or 9 bed design). The signage will contain information about the varieties and some will include additional information such as ecological gardening techniques.

In addition, there will be a sign promoting the vegetable varieties project and VVfG website.

Displaying Garden Signage:
You will need to figure out how to best display the signage and determine what outdoor system works best for your garden and budget.



Laminating the signage will give it some degree of protection from the weather.

Here is an example of what one county is using to display their bed signage:

GARDEN PLANTING: When beds are planted, they should be planted to match the planting layout on the signage for each bed.

Project Plants and Seeds:

Counties that registered to grow their own transplants: All seeds will be mailed to your county offices. Expect them by mid to late February. Potatoes will be mailed in April.

Counties that registered to come to Cornell Campus to pick up their transplants: Your direct sow seeds and potatoes will be picked up with your plants.

QUESTIONS can be directed to Laurie VanNostrand, ljv8@cornell.edu.