**Winter Vegetables**

1. Choosing a garden site
   1. Ensuring accessibility & convenience to a water source, water is the most basic gardening requirement.
   2. Planting dates: October 15 (winter)
   3. Choose your site taking into consideration the shorter days and different angles of the sun this time of year.
2. Soil
3. The ideal soil is loam which is a mixture containing equal amounts of clay, silt, sand and organic matter.
   * 1. Soil structure can be improved by the addition of organic matter. Turn over to loosen soil (but don’t overwork)
     2. Add compost to amend, water to settle, and let it sit for a couple of weeks before planting.
        1. Letting soil sit allows amendments to fully break down
4. Preparation of soil
   * 1. Mulch around plants
        1. Mulch is a layer of material, ergo; compost, straw, bark, grass clippings, leaves, shredded paper or plastic spread over garden soil.
     2. Mulching reduces weed growth, keeps in moisture, prevents erosion, and controls soil temperature (helps soil stay cool in summer and warm in winter)
5. Soil needs to be fertilized from nutrients being used up by plants and washed away by rain and irrigation.
   * 1. Best to use a complete and slow release fertilizer
     2. Look for fertilizer with Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium (N-P-K)
6. Composting
7. It is a natural fertilizer that is made up of dead plant and animal material.
   * 1. Benefits soil  by slowly releasing nutrients
     2. Great way to recycle yard and other wastes
8. Two types of compost materials:
   * 1. Green: hot, soft, wet, smelly materials
        1. Ergo. Grass clippings, spent plants and flowers, green pruning, fresh kitchen scraps and animal manures; supplies Nitrogen.
     2. Brown: cold, tough, oily, waxy, dry materials
        1. Ergo. Straw, wood shavings, dead fallen leaves and woody pruning; supplies Carbon.
9. Turn pile regularly, keep moist and it is advisable to not add anything to the pile once it is started.
10. Avoid putting these materials into your compost pile: poisonous plants, manure from carnivores, meat scraps, diseased plants and tough weeds such as Bermuda grass.
11. Irrigation
    1. Ideal time to water is early morning before the sun is high
    * Water less in the cooler, wetter fall and winter seasons than in the hot dry summer.
    1. Avoid over watering plants as it is the cause of most plants dying
    * Be cautious of run-off water
12. Planting
13. Due to mild winters in Southern California, Fall is an ideal time to start a garden
14. Note the date on seed packets
    1. Do not plant old seeds
    2. Take advantage of maturation time, use succession planting
       * 1. Not all crops are ready to harvest at once
         2. Plant every 3 weeks

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| **Vegetable** | **Dates** | **Season** |
| Beets (S,T) | Feb-Mar, Sep | Fall-Winter |
| Broccoli (S,T) | Feb, Sep | Fall-Winter |
| Brussels Sprouts (S, T) | Feb, Sep | Fall-Winter |
| Cabbage (S,T) | Feb, Sep | Fall-Winter |
| Chinese Cabbage (S, T) | Late Jul—Early Aug | Summer |
| Carrot (S) | Feb-Mar | Winter |
| Cauliflower (S,T) | Feb, Sep | Winter |
| Celery (T) | Mid-Mar, Sep | Fall- Winter |
| Endive (S,T) | Mar | Winter |
| Garlic | mid-Sep—Nov | Fall-Winter |
| Kale (S,T) | Feb, Sep | Fall-Winter |
| Kohlrabi (S,T) | Feb—Mid-Mar, Sep | Fall-Winter |
| Leek (S,T) | Sep-Oct | Fall-Winter |
| Lettuce (S, T) | Feb, Sep | Fall-Winter |
| Mustard (S,T) | Feb—Mar, Sep—mid-Oct | Fall-Winter |
| Onion, Bulbing (S, T) | mid-Sep—  early Oct | Fall-Winter |
| Parsnip (S) | Apr-May | Spring |
| Pea (S) | Feb—mid-Mar, mid-Sep—mid-Oct | Fall-Winter |
| Radish (S) | Feb—mid-April, mid-Sep—Oct | Fall-Winter |
| Turnip & Rutabaga (S) | Mar-Apr, Aug | Spring |
| Shallot (T) | Mar | Winter |
| Spinach (S) | Feb—March, mid-Sep—Oct | Winter |