



The First Ten Plays

Raising a Victory Garden

- Decide what you want to raise and if you can actually raise it in your growing zone. <http://www.avant-gardening.com/zone.htm>
- Evaluate your soil where you plan to plant a garden to see what you may need to add to ensure your plants succeed. <http://home.howstuffworks.com/how-to-test-your-soils-health.htm>
- Evaluate how much water you may need. Is there enough water available?
- Design the structure you will use for planting: pots, raised beds, portable beds, ground gardens, and green houses.
- Talk to your local University Extension departments and find out who are the Master Gardeners in your area. Then contact them for advice and documents for your area.
- Get the right tools for your gardening. Don't buy cheap tools as they often fail or don't do the job you want. There are many gimmick tools. Ask the Master Gardener what you really need.
- Make plans for planting. Decide on whether you will raise your own seedlings or buy from nurseries or other sources. Plan the plantings based on your hardiness zone so the seedlings and planted seeds come up at the right time.
- Use natural fertilizers rather than commercial chemicals. Mulching around the plants, once they rise up will protect drying out, from excessive temperature stress, and from many insects.
- Protect your plants by proper fencing, supports (especially for windy areas), drainage, and weeding. Avoid use of herbicides and pesticide chemicals whenever possible. Remove any dead or ill plants far away from the garden immediately.
- Know when the best times are for harvesting and what a "ripe" vegetable or fruit should look like. Make plans to preserve and/or barter the products from your garden, this may include drying, canning, and freezing.

*** These are not listed in order of importance but as a group of materials that will increase the possibility of positive outcomes.**

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