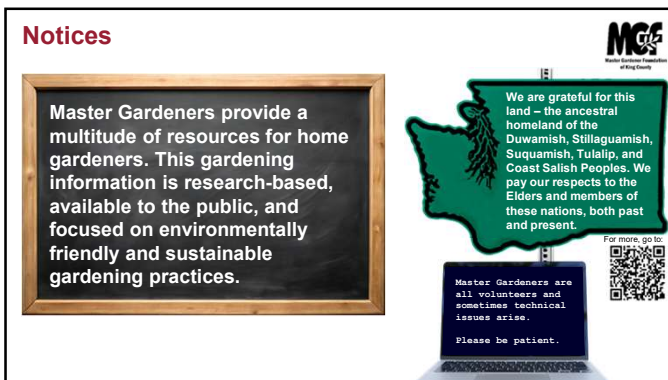
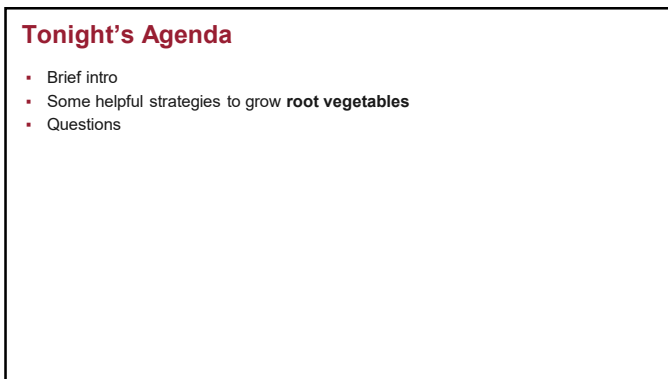


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Preparing the Soil

- Soil is water, air, and dirt particles. The perfect ratio of these creates conditions for fluffy, well-draining soil.
- The "dirt" part needs to have the right amount of nutrients/organic material in it for root vegetables to grow.
- Root veggies like deep soil fluffiness (12-18") for optimal growing conditions.
- Remove debris from soil, like rocks, sticks, or competing root systems.

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Direct Sow

- Check back of seed packet for instructions and follow these directions
- Soil temperature is very important
- Thin seedlings according to packet instructions
- (Beet greens and thinned-out others can be eaten after thinning)

7

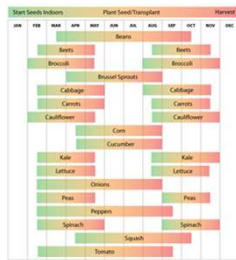
We are Zone 8b

Hardy plants survive 15-20 degree weather.
Check with seed company where you purchase your seeds (or the map on the back of seed packets) to confirm zone.
Remember isolated coastal pockets.



8

Planting Chart



9



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Potatoes

- Needs: 45°F soil, consistent watering throughout the summer, curing
- Two weeks before planting, put seed potatoes somewhere warm and bright to sprout
- Two days before planting, cut seed potatoes into "seeds," or 1-1/2" squares, with at least 1 or 2 "eyes" or buds. Smaller potatoes may be planted whole. We want the seed to heal over the cuts to help prevent rot when planted

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Potatoes, Continued


Water through the summer, especially during flowering.

Water in the morning so leaves are wet at night to reduce fungal disease.

When foliage yellows and dies, discontinue watering for a week or two before harvesting (2-3 weeks after flowers)

Lay your harvest out, unwashed, for 2-3 days, to dry

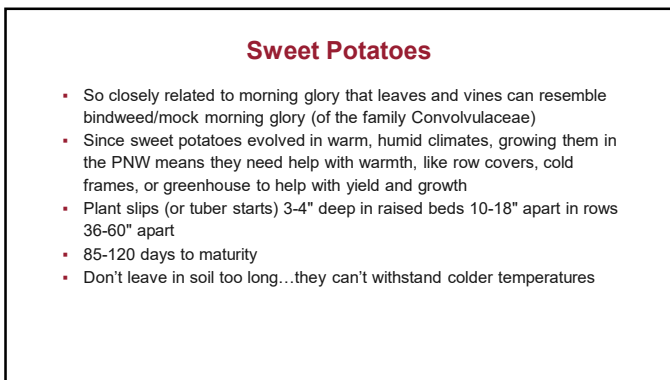
Don't grow potatoes in the same soil more than once in three years. Crop rotation helps with pests and diseases



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Parsnips

- Easier than carrots
- The hardiest vegetable?
- Even better after frost!
- They store well
- Long time between germination and harvest; plant early



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Parsnip Problems

- Insects: Leaf hoppers
- Diseases: Alternaria (leaf blight/spot) and Cercospora (leaf spot)
- Avoid working soil when wet; you need good air circulation, well-drained soil; rotate crops



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Beets

Beta vulgaris



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Varieties of Garden Beets





Color	Examples of the Varieties
	Boro, Detroit Dark Red, Early Wonder Tall Top, Red Ace, Bulls Blood, Cyindra
	Golden Detroit, Touchstone, Boulder
	Chioggia

Photo Credit: harvestinghistory.com

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Timeline (Beet)

May: Germination in the Garden



- Soil temperatures 40°F-80°F
- Optimal is 77°F
- Germination time: 5 -15 days
- Direct sow under cover, March to end-May for summer crop
- Direct sow June to end-August for fall crop

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Timeline (Beet)

June: Maintenance and Harvesting




Photo Credit: onehundreddollarsamonth.com




Photo Credit: raised-bed-gardening.com

- Maintenance:**
 - Thin early 1-2" apart
 - Thin later 3-5" apart to harvest baby beets and greens
 - Keep beds weed free to eliminate competition for resources
- Harvesting:**
 - Follow instructions on seed packet for days to maturity (~45 - 60 days)
 - Beets can get woody if left too long

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Timeline (Beet)
July: Moving Forward



Photo Credit: urbanfarming-kelly.blogspot.

- Succession planting every three weeks (until temperatures reach 80°F)
- Restart planting late summer for fall crop – 8 weeks before first frost
- Use shade cloth if it gets too hot to prevent bolting

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Thank You!

And now for some closing announcements before questions...

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Resources

- <https://extension.wsu.edu/king/gardening/>
- <https://hortsense.cahnrs.wsu.edu/>

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Upcoming Presentations

Growing Groceries 2025 Warm Season Series Wednesdays 7:00pm-8:30pm		PNW Garden Savvy 2025 Series 2 Saturdays 9:30am-10:30am	

Date	Class	Date	Class
Wed, April 16	Growing the 'Other' Edible Nightshades: Peppers, Tomatillos, Eggplant	Sat, April 12	Gardening with Children
Wed, April 30	Roots and Rare Fruits	Sat, April 26	Plant it Where the Sun Don't Shine
Wed, May 14	Grow Cukes, Squash and Melons- Big and Small	Sat, May 3	Protecting Our Unsung Heroes, Our Pollinators
Wed, May 28th	The Nutritional Powerhouse: Corn and Beans (legumes)	Sat, May 17	Understanding King County Soils for Better Gardening
Wed, June 11	Summer Starts for Fall and Early Spring Harvests	Sat, May 31	Rain Gardens
Wed, June 25	Caring for Community: Master Gardener Demonstration Gardens	Sat, June 7	Deer Resistant Gardening

More info: <https://kingcounty.mastergardenerfoundation.org/education>

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Master Gardener Resources

<p>Ask a Master Gardener Visit: https://extension.wsu.edu/king/ask-a-master-gardener</p>	<p>Become a Master Gardener For information on King County Master Gardener training (including signing up for the email notification list), visit: https://extension.wsu.edu/king/gardening/become-a-master-gardener Applications for the 2026 class will open in September 2025</p>
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Thank you for the support!

is brought to you by

<p>King County Master Gardener Program https://extension.wsu.edu/king/gardening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Demonstration Gardens ▪ Plant Clinics ▪ Education Outreach ▪ Science-based Publications 	<p>Master Gardener Foundation of King County http://www.mgfc.org</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fundraising for these programs
<p>More information about growing groceries: https://kingcounty.mastergardenerfoundation.org/education/gg/</p>	

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Questions?



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