

HOW TO START YOUR OWN GARDEN



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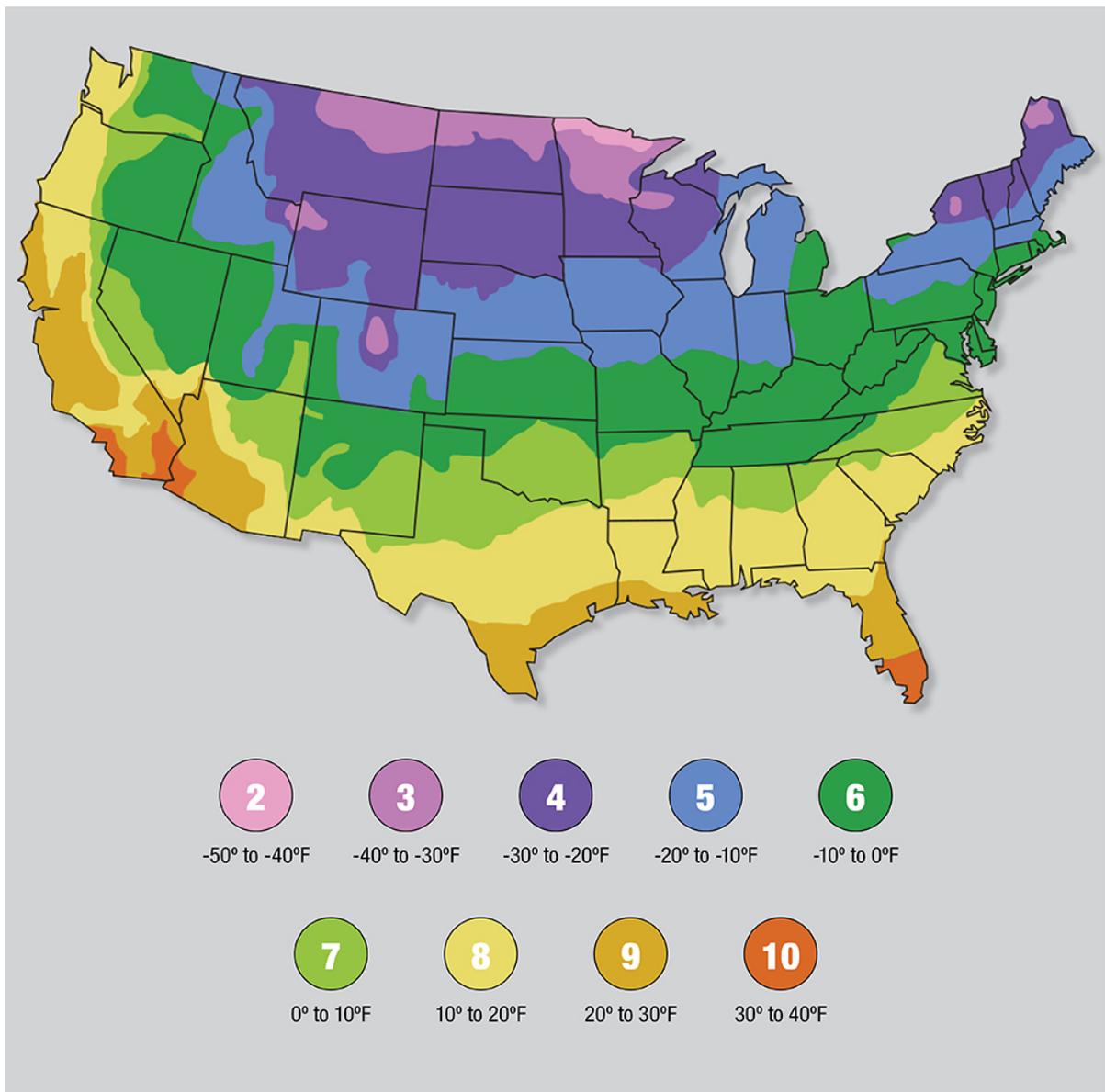
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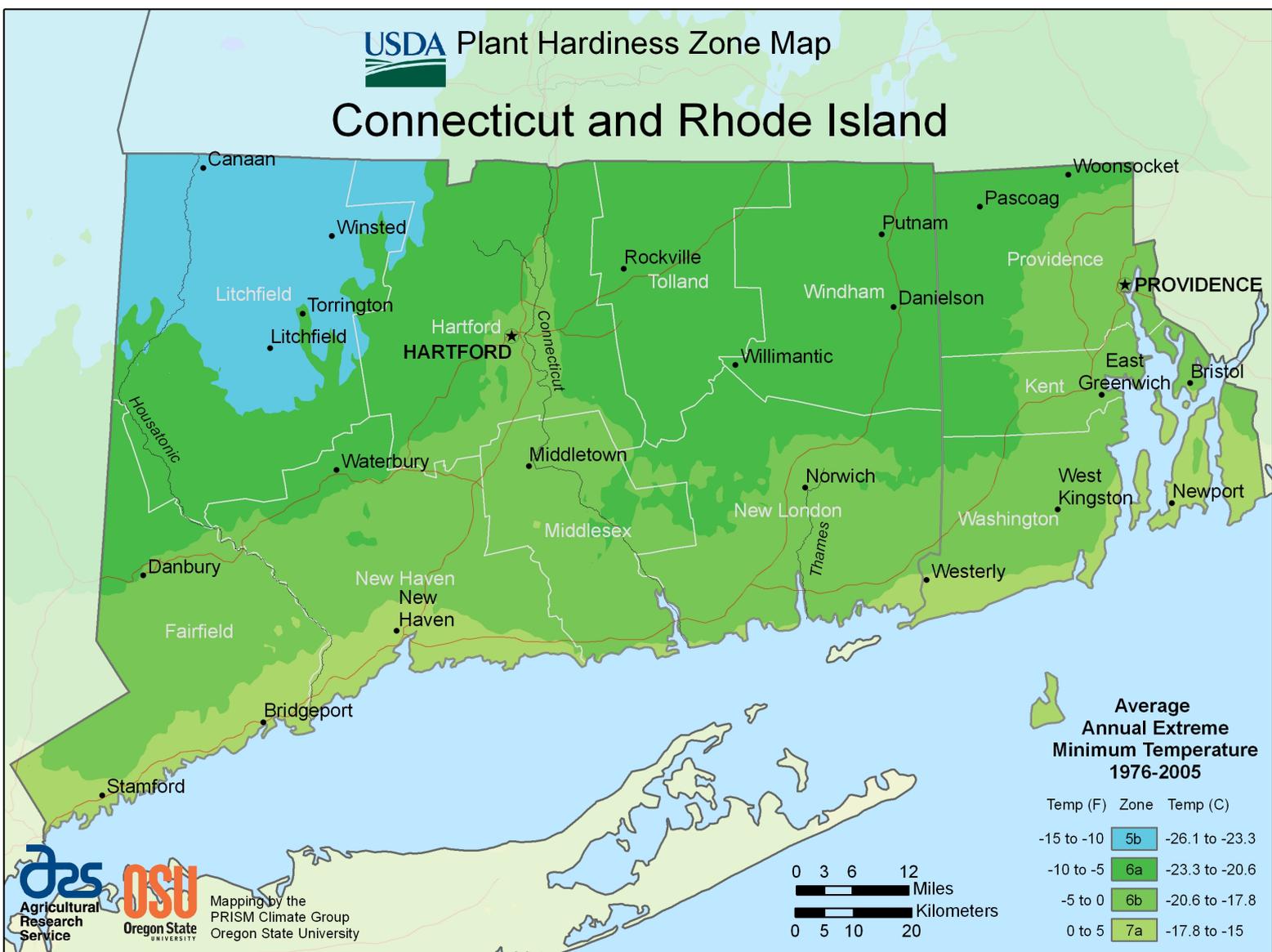
WHAT IS YOUR CLIMATE ZONE?

The first step for any gardener or farmer to begin growing is determine one's climate zone or plant hardiness zone. Hardiness zones are geographical areas divided up by climate that can be used to determine where different plants will grow best.



Zones range from 1 to 13 around the world, but in the United states we have only seen temperatures ranging in zones 2-10. Zones can be further broken down from numbers using the letters a and b to know more specific ranges of temperatures.

In Connecticut, we currently experience temperatures in zones 5b to 7a. Meaning that our state temperatures on average can get as low as -15°F. This is important to know because it will help determine what types of plants can survive outdoors in CT.



In Willimantic we experience temperatures in in zone 6a which can be as low as -5°F to -10 °F. This does not mean you can't grow warmer weather crops, it just means we have a shorter warm weather season than other areas do. In CT our frost-free growing season on average starts in mid May and ends around mid to late September. This varies from year to year, and is affected by the global climate effects.

The frost free season is the time period in which there is no longer temperatures that range between 32°F - 36°F, which are the minimum temperatures that many northeast crops can survive in.

CHOOSING THE LOCATION OF YOUR GARDEN

When it comes to choosing the location of your garden or the area where you will grow there are a lot of factors to take into account, for first-time gardeners I recommend you focus on sunlight exposure, soil health, and how you want to build your garden.



Although there are many other factors in gardening that are important, these are the basics that any grower will want to take into account when first starting off, as they can determine how successful one's growing season actually is drastically. On the next page are brief descriptions of how each of these factors affect the yield of crops and how you can take them into account to set up your crops for success.

Sunlight Exposure

Just like humans plants need sunlight to thrive, however unlike humans plants can not simply get up and move around to get sunlight. That is why before you even begin to plan anything for a growing space, you have to ensure that your growing space will get the adequate sun exposure needed. On average most crops need at least 6 hours of direct sunlight daily to grow and thrive.

One easy way to ensure that your crops get adequate sunlight is to create a sun map of your growing space. A sun map is a map of the sun's presence where you plan to grow. Simply put, you observe your growing space and map it to assess how many hours of sun each area of your space receives in a given day.

There are three types of sun exposure that you want to focus on mapping, full sun exposure, partial sun exposure and full shade exposure.

1. The areas where there is full sun exposure; these spots will be best for crops that need many hours of sunlight and high temperatures to thrive. "Full sun" means a minimum of six hours and usually at least 8 hours of sunlight per day.

Examples of crops: Cucumbers, eggplant, peppers, squash, tomatoes and corn.

2. The areas where there is partial sun exposure; these spots are best for crops which fall in between that may not need as much sun, but do not do well in full shade. "Partial Sun" vegetables require at least four hours of sunlight per day, but often can thrive with less than six hours of direct sunlight.

Examples of crops: Bush beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, cilantro, leeks, and radishes.

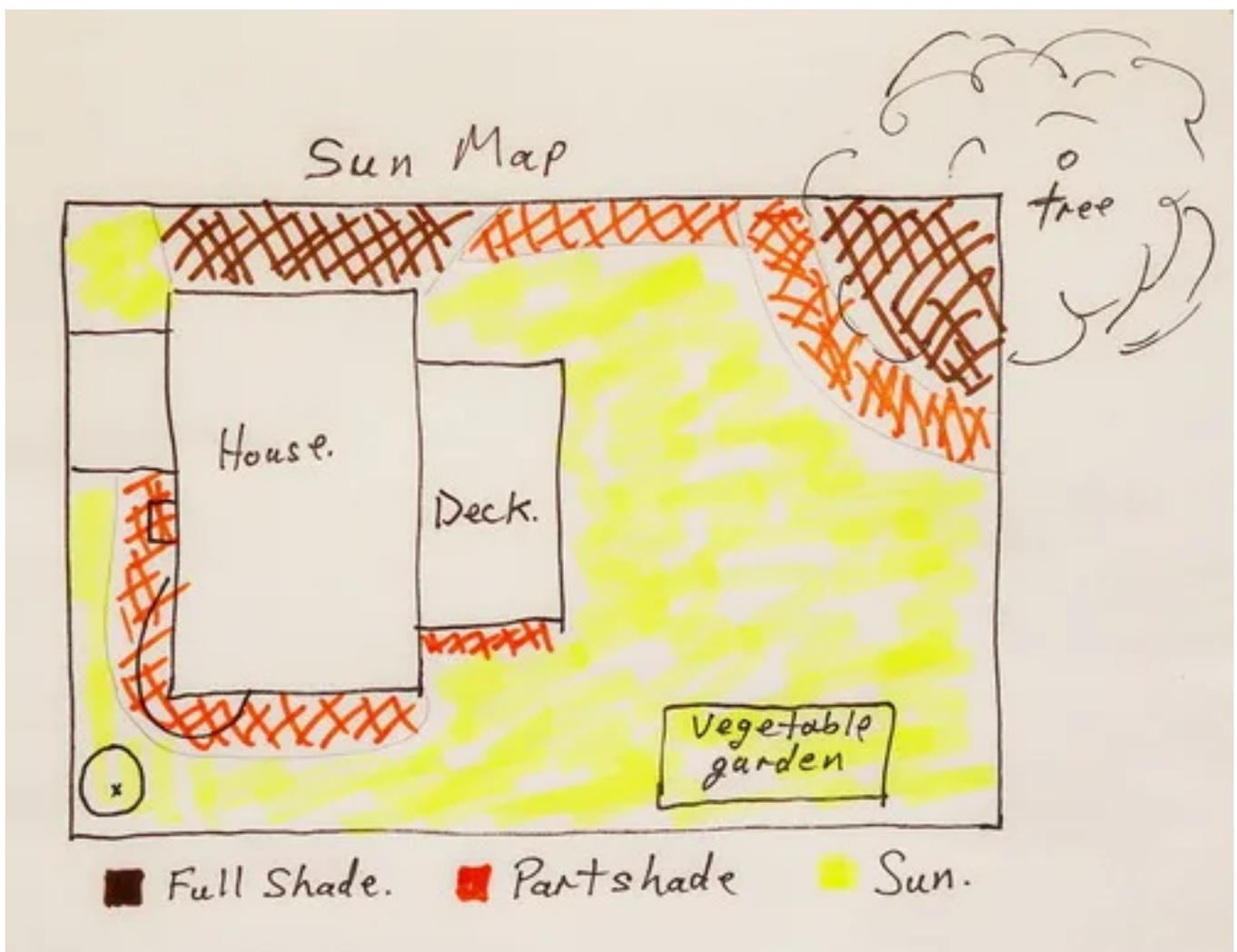
3. The areas where there is full shade exposure; these spots are best for crops that thrive in cooler temperatures and can handle less sun exposure without stunting their growth. "Full Shade" exposure is for vegetables that do well in less sunlight, usually 2 to 4 hours is adequate.

Examples of crops: Arugula, brussel sprouts, endive, kale, mustard greens, spinach, and swiss chard.

Note: It is best to plan to begin learning to garden in an area that receives the most full sun possible, as adding shade to crops is much easier than trying to further sun exposure.

See page 28 of this manual for further detailed instructions on how to create a sun map of your growing space.

Example of a sun map



Soil Health

Your soil health = your health

Once you've determined where you think you want to begin gardening, you want to make sure that your soil is up to par. If you are able to, it is best to test your soil for harmful toxins. I highly recommend focusing on making sure that your soil does not contain anything that can harm you in the long run or short term, such as high traces of lead, petroleum, or asbestos. If you have been living in your home for a while you may even be able to infer from your experience of what can possibly be in your soil. For example, if you live directly near a gas station, you could probably infer that there might be water runoff that may have accumulated in your soil, or if you have a mechanic in your family that works in your yard they may have at some point leaked chemicals into your soil. This is especially important in urban areas, where there are many factors that are often not in your control.

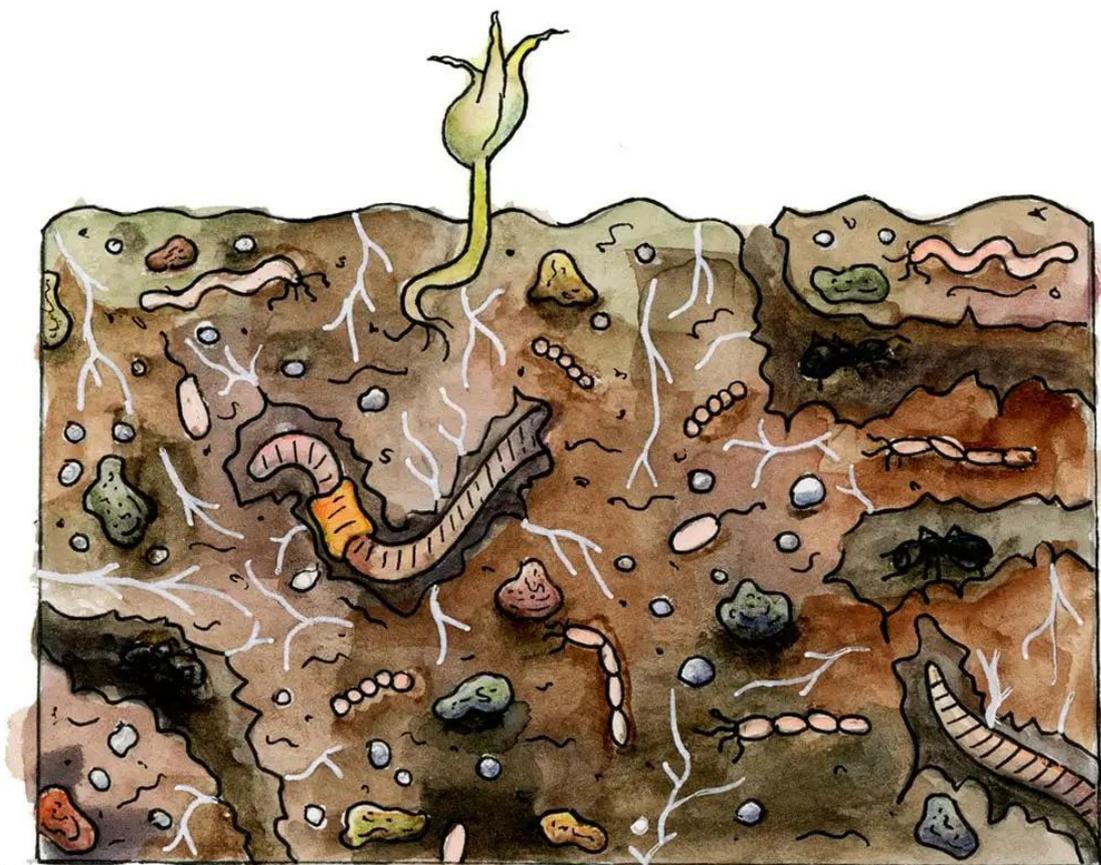
Luckily nowadays soil tests are much more accessible and affordable with the technology available to us. Your best bet is to contact a local university in your area that can do this for you or a private laboratory, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is a great resource for soil testing as well.

Besides testing your soil for toxins, you can also get a nutrient analysis for your soil, but I would not focus as much on this if you are a first time gardener, it is one of those things that you can get quickly overwhelmed with and can be much easier corrected if needed in the long run. Furthermore, as you get into the rhythm of gardening you'll be able to tell if you have soil deficiencies, as your plants will surely tell you if so.

Soil Health

Is your soil actually capable of sustaining life?

Besides making sure that your soil will not cause you harm when growing, you also want to make sure that your soil is the right consistency and type to sustain life. This is something fairly easy to do as it simply requires an examination of some visual cues. To determine if your soil is capable of sustaining life you can start off by simply digging into the area where you plan to grow. I recommend you dig about at least 6-8 inches deep and 3-4 spots where you plan to grow. You want to pull out some soil and simply look at it. If your soil is dark, fairly moist, and contains insects such as earthworms and beetles you can infer that your soil is fairly healthy. However, some clear signs of not so ideal soil for growing in the northeast are clear traces of clay, sand, dry or overly porous soil that can not retain water. If your soil looks fairly healthy you can move on to planning to grow in that area, if not you may want to consider choosing a different location or even taking a safe bet with container growing or raised beds.



The building of your garden

Directly growing in your soil, container growing, and raised beds

The last step to choosing the location of your garden is determining exactly how you want to grow, meaning if you want to directly grow in your soil, build a raised bed on top of your soil or use a container to hold your crops. When deciding this you also want to think about what you are hoping to grow, as some crops that have deep root systems do not do very well in containers, such as corn and carrots, although not impossible it can be difficult.

Here are some photo examples of what each of these options can look like and some of their advantages and disadvantages.

Direct soil bed mounds



Raised garden beds



Container growing



The building of your garden

Garden bed type	Advantages	Dis-advantages
Directly growing in your soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses existing soil, no need to add or buy soil. • Less start up work. • Less permanent. • Easier irrigation and should keep soil moist for longer. • Can use machines more easily if needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil compaction can be more common, since there is no bounds to separate your beds from paths. • More upkeep needed for weeds since there is easier access for germination. • Harder to extend your season since the ground may freeze with more ease.
Raised beds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More controlled soil quality. • They can be used in areas that have very poor soil, contaminated soil or no soil at all. • Can be deep enough for most crops' roots. • More ergonomic/easier on your body when maintaining. • Easily adaptable for extending your season. • Prevents weeds from invading easily. • Aesthetically pleasing, and can look more organized. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does require more upfront cost, and effort to build. • Can require more maintenance of materials (wood decaying, beds falling apart etc). • Soil can get relatively hotter, depending on the depth of the structured bed. • Garden layout can't be changed as easily,
Growing in a container	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You can grow in small spaces, such as a porch or even window. • You can move them around if necessary. • You can experiment more in controlled soils. • Way less manual labor, as there are less weeds and pest. • Great for small herbs and plants. • Very friendly for people with different mobilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The soil can dry out fairly quickly so they may require more watering regularly. • Fertilization is a must, as there is not much composting or mulching you can do. • A smaller yield, great for personal use, not so much for anything else. • Plants can outgrow containers if kept in there for too long.

PLANNING OUT WHAT YOU WILL GROW IN YOUR GARDEN AND HOW



Topics covered in this section

- What can we grow during our growing seasons in CT?
- Direct sowing vs. Transplanting
- Your gardening ethics
 - Organic gardening*
 - Regenerative gardening*
 - Non-organic gardening*
- Creating a crop care plan

What can we grow during growing seasons in CT?

Most of Connecticut falls under zone 6 in the hardiness scale, meaning we can grow a variety of crops outdoors during our peak summer season, and even during early winter and early spring. Because we do have a relatively diverse climate to grow in, time and temperatures are key to take into account to be able to maximize your crop's harvest.

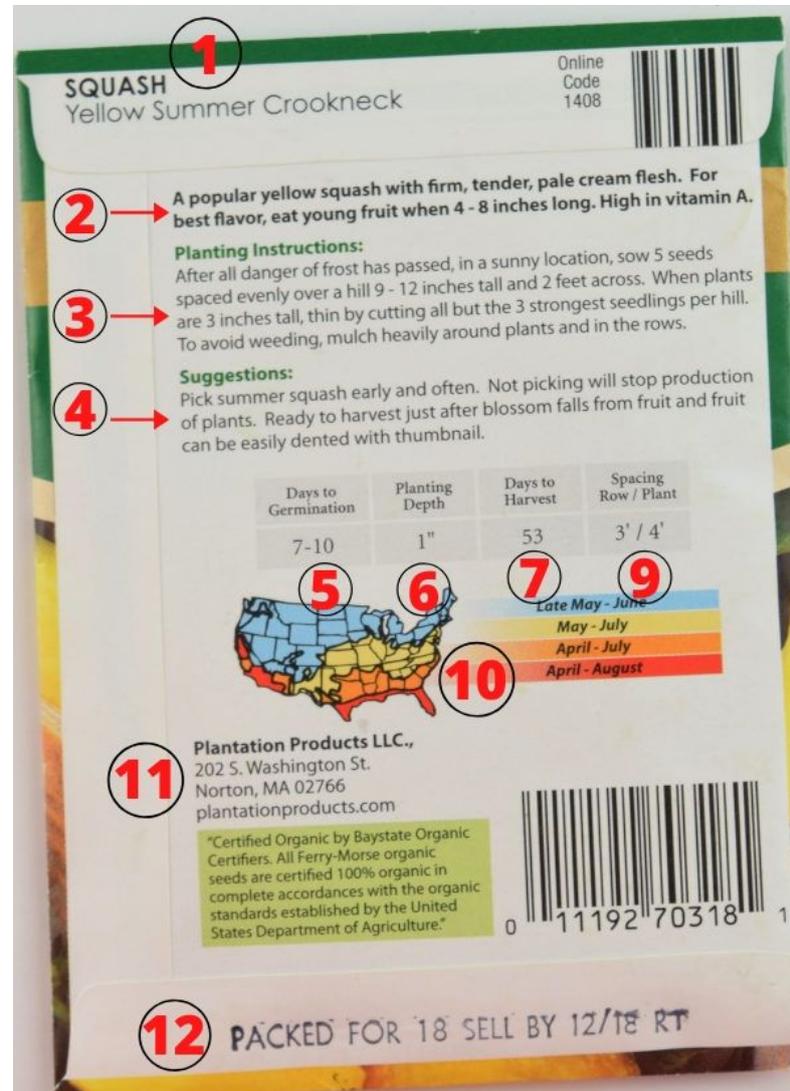
On the next page, you will see a chart with some basic crops that many first-time gardeners can begin with. The survival temperature of these crops is on the chart, as well as the timeline of when these crops should be started, transplanted/directly sowed, and harvested. Many charts like this exist today and can easily be accessible online with a quick search. Also, most seed packets today include this information as well. For more information on how to read a seed packet and identify the same information, we have provided an example on page 15 of our manual.



Color Key	Start seedlings indoors	Direct sow or transplant seedlings in ground	Harvest/crop coming to its end					
Month	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October
Temperatures for survival and growth.								
Tomatoes	55-85 F							
Peppers	70-80 F							
Cucumbers	65-75 F							
Kale	65-75 F							
Corn	70-85 F							
Onions	55-75 F							
Lettuce	60-65 F							
Cabbage	60-70 F							
Beets-Can grow during all seasons	50-70 F							
Carrots	55-75 F							
Peas	55-65 F							
squash	65-75 F							
Broccoli	40-70 F							
Spinach	50-60 F							

Below is an example of a seed packet and where to identify important factors such as, when to plant the crop in your hardiness zone, plant spacing, days to harvest etc.

1. Plant Name And Botanical Name
2. Description Or Traits
3. Sowing Information
4. Suggestions For Increasing Production
5. Days To Germination
6. Planting Depth
7. Days To Harvest
8. Thinning
9. Spacing: Row And Plant
10. Hardiness Zone
11. Horticulture Company
12. Packed For / Sell By Date



Direct sowing vs. Transplanting

After you've identified what you want to grow in your garden, you want to consider whether you'd like to take some extra effort to start your seedlings early by growing them indoors in a container or if you want to directly sow your seeds.

Although starting seedlings indoors can be quite helpful for first-time growers to ensure proper germination some crops are better off when started and grown directly in the ground.

The main benefit of transplanting seedlings is that you can start your crops early, and therefore get a quicker harvest because of it. However, it is important to note that starting seedlings indoors does cost more, and requires more attention since the soil in containers does dry faster and requires more watering than direct sowing.

In addition, some crops do not transfer well, for example, carrots and beets are very difficult to transfer since they are root vegetables and disturbance of their roots can stunt their growth. But, other vegetables such as tomatoes do great when started indoors, as they are quite finicky and can not tolerate anything below 50 degrees Fahrenheit, therefore you can start them indoors in mid-spring and have some good-sized plants ready to be transplanted when temperatures constantly hit about 50 degrees Fahrenheit.



Your gardening ethics

Once you've begun to grow your plants and seedlings, you also want to begin to think about how you are going to take care of them and your soil. Thinking about your garden ethics is important, especially if you do decide to grow in direct soil or raised beds.

Usually, as first-time gardeners, we don't necessarily think further than we need to when it comes to growing our crops, as our goals are to get a high yield and inherently gardening is already a lot of work, using things like pesticides or herbicides, as well as non-organic soil amendments seem like the best thing to do for our own sake, but it may also be the only thing we as first-time gardeners know.

Because of that, I do want to offer some other methods of gardening for people who may want to practice organic gardening and regenerative gardening. Although these alternatives do require more effort, in our opinion the effort pays off in the long run and creates happier crops. On the next page is a breakdown of the three mainstream gardening ethics that farmers and growers use, their pros and cons, and some examples of practices and definitions.

As you begin to plan your garden, really take some time to decide how you'd like to grow. After all, it is your food and space, also you can mix and match methods, as you may find some parts of certain methods helpful and others not so much to your situation. Regardless of what you choose I encourage you to do your own learning through trial and error of what works best for you, as we all grow in different conditions.

Your gardening ethics

Definition	Pros	Cons	Application examples
<p>Non-organic/conventional: These are methods which do not take into account the biological life surrounding plants, the health of soil, but rather focus on the yield of a crop and ease of how it can be done. These methods often rely on synthetic or man made resources and amendments that disturb biological life.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesser Costs, Higher Gains. • Increases yield production, at high rates. • Can become less work, and has more products easily accessible to use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of Pesticides on your produce and soil. • Can create health and environmental hazards. • Can quickly damage small scale growing areas. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Using common pesticides as round up on your invasive weeds. 2. Opting to grow genetically modified seeds. 3. Continuously tilling your soil.
<p>Organic: These methods prioritize the way we affect our crops, focusing on the health of soil, the health of other biological life near our crops and our own health. These methods often require alternatives to pesticides and herbicides, that are not harmful in the short term to us or other biological life.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthier soil • Supports pollinators • Decreases the resistance your pest have. • Can still use organic pesticides and fungicides. • Allows beneficial insects to thrive. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More effort required. • More trainings/knowledge needed. • Can become more expensive. • Can be difficult to practice in large scale. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Using water and soap to get rid of pest, instead of a spray chemical. 2. Manually weeding, as opposed to spraying round up or other weed killers. 3. Building up your soil organic matter, such as local manure or compost.
<p>Regenerative: Regenerative growing methods center the process of restoring degraded soils using practices based on using natural resources and amendments. Regenerative methods also focus on the interconnected interactions among the soil, water, plants, animals and humans. Rather than simply focusing on a crops yield and success, it focuses on the larger picture of the ecosystems health.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthier soil • Increased organic matter in soil • Increased biodiversity • Healthier yields • Reduced runoff and soil erosion • Healthier working environment for growers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More effort required. • More trainings/knowledge needed. • Can become more expensive. • Can be difficult to practice in large scale. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Building up your soil, using organic matter, such as growing cover crops. 2. No tilling, to decrease the erosion of soil, and not disturb the life in soil. 3. Rotating your crops, to balance out nutrient deficiencies in soil, and naturally add nutrients through crops.

Creating a crop care plan

The last step for preparing to grow in your garden is to make a plan of how you are going to tend your crop. In the chart provided earlier, we noted important times, such as when to plant or sow and also harvest.

In addition, you want to create a plan or log on how to take care of your crops. For every crop you grow you should create a checklist that includes times and dates for when to water it, prune it or thin it, and harvest it, as well as traits that tell whether your crop is healthy or not.

Here's an example of what that plan or log can look like...

Tomatoes

- Seedlings started on March 20th, 2022
- Seedlings can be transplanted once temperatures consistently reach 50 degrees fahrenheit.
- Tomatoes should be pruned three weeks after being planted directly into the ground.
- When pruning examine leaves for any discoloration, holes, or dry leaves that can indicate pest or fungus.
- Make sure tomatoes receive 1-2 inches of water a week, or water 2 times a week if no rain.
- Plants should bear fruit 40-50 days after directly planting into ground.

Tools and other resources you may need to get started



Topics covered in this section

- Basic tools needed
- Basic soil amendment knowledge
- Resources that you can refer to

Basic tools you may need to get started

- **Gloves**
- **Pruning Shears**
- **Hand shovel**
- **Soil Knife/ hori hori**
- **Garden rake**
- **Shovel**
- **Garden hoe**
- **Garden hose or watering can**
- **Wheelbarrow**
- **Rain gauge**



The basics of soil amendment

What are soil amendments?

Soil amendments are any chemical, biological or physical materials intentionally added to soil to improve and support plant growth and or soil health.

Amendments can be divided into two main categories: organic and inorganic.

Organic soil amendments include things like compost, aged manure, coconut coir, and wood ash.

Inorganic soil amendments include things like sand, perlite, lime, and vermiculite.



Which amendments you use depends on what your soil and plants need. Below are some of the most common amendments and their functions.

Plant material:

Leaves, straw, and grass clippings. Work material into the soil several months before planting to allow it time to decompose.

Compost:

Decayed plant materials such as vegetable scraps. Work it into the soil at least a few weeks prior to planting. Excellent soil conditioner that adds nutrients and may also lower soil pH.

Leaf mold:

Decomposed leaves that add nutrients and structure to soil.

Aged manure:

A good soil conditioner. Use composted manure and incorporate it into the soil well ahead of planting. Do NOT use fresh manure on vegetable gardens, as it can damage plants and introduce diseases.

Note: Manures contain a higher concentration of salts, so use them more sparingly than you would other organic amendments, particularly in dry regions where salts won't be leached away by rainfall.

soil ammendments continued

Coconut coir:

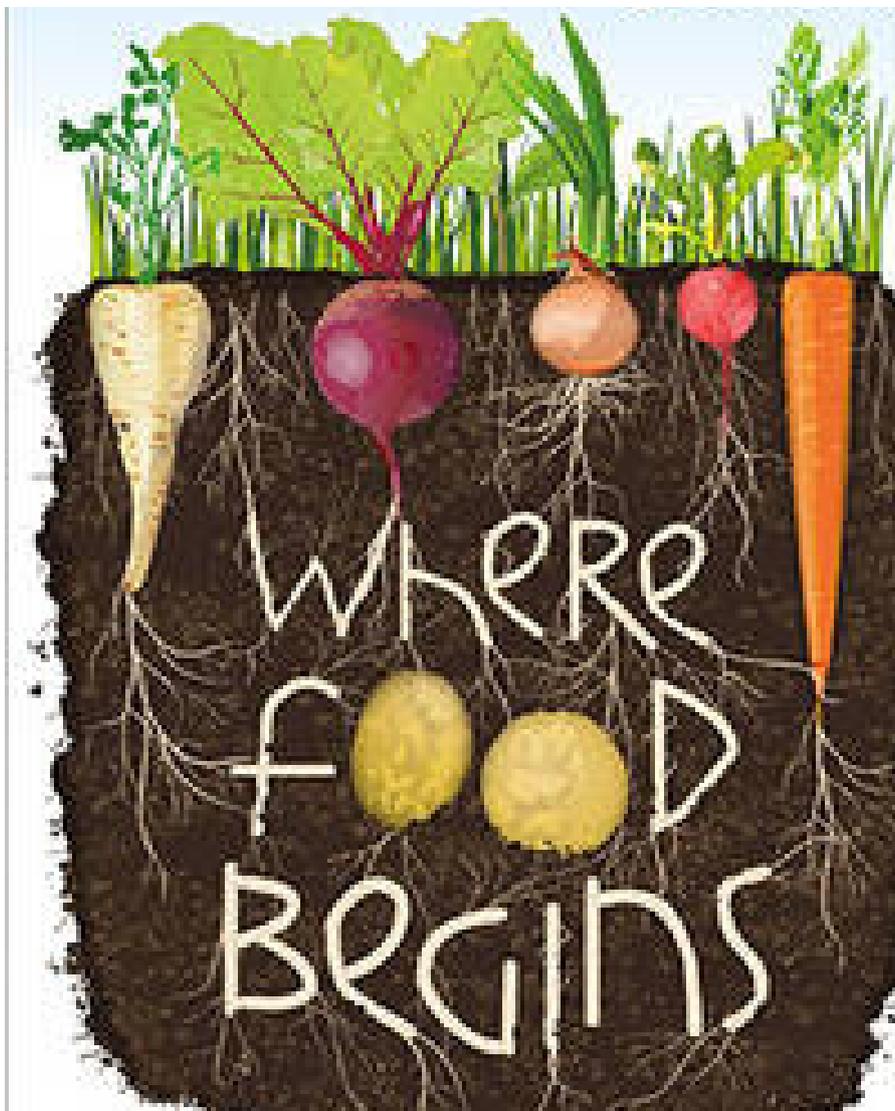
A soil conditioner that helps soil retain water. This material is a more sustainable alternative to peat moss.

Lime:

Raises the pH of acidic soil. Only use if recommended by a soil test.

Sulfur:

Lowers the pH of alkaline soil. Only use if recommended by a soil test.



Other resources you can refer to for help

Here is a list of some websites and contacts that we recommend as great resources to further your gardening knowledge.

Resource and location	Description
<p>Johnny's seeds Growers librabry</p> <p>Website: www.johnnyseeds.com/growers-library/growing-center.html</p>	<p>This is an online resource Johnny's seeds has created with articles and how to's on endless growing topics, such as planning tools, how to identify pest, growing organic, how to grow specific crops etc. On their website they even have pre-recorded how to's on their webinar series tab.</p>
<p>Almanac.com</p>	<p>This website is best to use for when looking up your areas hardiness zone, as well information on regional pest and diseases. It also has a calendar tracker that can calculate your regions first and last frost date, as well as tools to plan your garden.</p>
<p>UConn Home & Garden Education Center http://www.ladybug.uconn.edu/index.php</p>	<p>This is a website and organization ran by the Univeristy of Connecticut, they post regular updates and suggestions for local gardeners and farmers. They also have a facebook page with similar information.</p>
<p>UConn Master Gardener Program You sign can up online or send an email to sarah.bailey@uconn.edu https://mastergardener.uconn.edu/</p>	<p>This program is ran by the University of Connecticut and is ran every year, with classes begining in early winter until May. "Learn the fundamental concepts of horticulture, as taught by UConn Extension educators and specialists. Based on UConn's Master Gardener curriculum, this four-part, online series can be taken at your own pace, at times that work for you. Choose just the modules you're interested in or complete all four sections to earn a certificate of completion in Fundamentals of Home Gardening."</p>
<p>Grow Windham Facebook and Instagram "Willimantic Urban Farmers" group on Facebook http://www.growwindham.org/</p>	<p>We are a food justice non-profit dedicated to making food acess more sutainable and ethical. On our website and social media pages you can find a variety of links and events to gardening tips and community workshops.</p> <p>We also just created a group called Willimantic Urban Farmers where we will encourage local growers to post resource, questions and feedback. We hope this group grows and can support local growing in our area.</p>

Places to shop locally for your garden needs

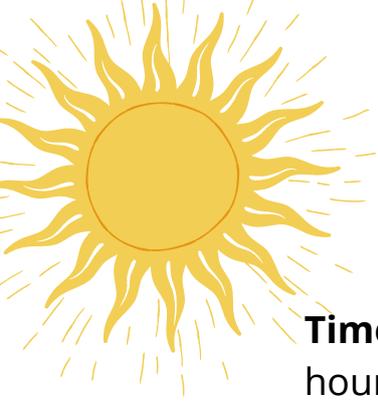
Also consider shopping local by purchasing gardening supplies at these local shops.

Name and location	Description
Willards Lumber 196 Valley St, Willimantic, CT 06226, USA (860) 423-1666	What you can buy here... Lumber, wheelbarrows, gardening tools, ammendments, hoses, pipes and soil, work tools, paint etc.
Mackey's Willimantic 249 Columbia Ave, Willimantic, CT 06226 (860) 423-6311	What you can buy here... Seeds, seedlings, plants, pots, soil, ammendments, gardening tools, harvesting containers, basic gardening hand held tools.
Ladd's Garden Center 671 Windham Rd, South Windham, CT 06266 (860) 456-4340	What you can buy here... Seeds, seedlings, plants, trees, perrenials and annual, and garden acessories.
Tri-County Greenhouse 290 Middle Turnpike, Mansfield Depot, CT 06251 (860) 429-5532	What you can buy here... Seedlings, vegetable plants, annuals and perennials.
Baltic Green house and nursery 201 Willimantic Rd, Baltic, CT 06330 (860) 319-5437	What you can buy here... Seedlings, vegetable plants, annuals and perennials.
Willimantic food co-op 91 Valley St, Willimantic, CT 06226 (860) 456-3611	What you can buy here... organic seeds and sometimes seedlings.

Places to shop for your produce

Lastly for those products you can't seem to grow or won't be able to this year, check out these local farms to buy local produce directly.

Name, location, and contact	Description
<p>Cobblestone farm 87 Bassetts Bridge Rd, Mansfield Center, CT 06250 https://cobblestonefarmcsa.com/</p>	<p>Cobblestone Farm runs a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) farm model, where you can purchase a "share" upfront and receive a fresh box of locally grown produce for 7 weeks or more depending on the share you purchase.</p>
<p>Cloverleigh Farm 448 Jonathan Trumbull Hwy (Rt. 87) Columbia, CT 06237 860-373-6324 cloverleighfarm@gmail.com https://www.cloverleighfarm.com/</p>	<p>Cloverleigh Farm runs a CSA farm model, and sells their produce to local restaurants and the Willimantic Food-co op. Buy your CSA share with Cloverleigh before April 15th for reduced pricing.</p>
<p>Raspberry Knoll Farm 163 North Windham Rd. (Rt. 203) North Windham, CT 06256 860-786-7486 https://www.raspberrynoll.com/</p>	<p>Raspberry Knoll Farms specialized in perennial fruits such as, raspberries, blackberries, blueberries, and strawberries. They also grow flowers and herbs. Their season opens for picking in June, when strawberries begin to fruit.</p>
<p>Bluebird Hill Farm 480 Trumbull Hwy, Lebanon, CT 06249 (860) 642-4663 https://www.facebook.com/bluebirdhillfarmlebanonct/</p>	<p>Bluebird Hill farm has their own farmstand in Lebanon and they sell at the local Willimantic farmers market during the summer season. The farm grows sweet corn, tomatoes, peaches, apples, pumpkins, and a wide variety of vegetables. The farm stand's hours are Thursdays and Fridays from 1 to 6 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.</p>
<p>Russo's Roots 289 North Society Rd, Canterbury, CT 06331 (860) 556-9325 https://www.russosroots.com/</p>	<p>Russo's Roots grows a variety of crops, you can purchase their produce at the Willimantic farmers market or sign up for their CSA program. Their produce includes, radishes, carrots, onions, garlic, peppers, squash and watermelon.</p>
<p>Willimantic Farmers Market 28 Bridge Street Willimantic, CT 06226 860-423-0533 http://www.willimanticfarmersmarket.org/</p>	<p>The Willimantic Farmers Market begins to run in late May, and hosts a variety of growers. You can expect to be able to purchase crops like corn, strawberries, peppers, lettuce, and even sprouts.</p>
<p>Willimantic Food co-op 91 Valley St, Willimantic, CT 06226 https://www.willimanticfood.coop/</p>	<p>Besides contacting your local farmer, you can also visit our local food co-op to purchase local produce and products. Their hours are Monday-Sunday 8:00am-8:00pm.</p>



How to create your own sun map

Time Frame Needed: About 1-2

hours spread through out a day, depending on how detailed you make your map.

Materials needed

- 4 blank pieces of paper
- Colored pencils, crayons or markers.
- A Ruler

Instructions:

Note:

For best results...

- **Do this on a day that is not the sunniest or cloudy, as it is a middle ground**
- **Repeat the following steps through out your day at least 3 times, once between 6:00-9:00am, once between 12:00pm-3:00pm and once during 3:00pm-6:00pm. The more times you track the sun, the more accurate your map will be.**

Step 1: Grab a blank piece of paper, a pencil, and a ruler. Imagine the blank space on the paper is your property. Draw your home approximately where it sits on your land/yard. Don't forget to include driveways and walkways, as well as hedges and trees. Anything that may provide shade is important to draw.

Step 2: Now on that same piece of paper use 3 different colored pencils to shade in where you notice there is full sun, partial shade and light shade in your growing space. Make sure you use three different colors to differentiate them (for example yellow, red, and blue). Repeat this at least 3 times on different pieces of paper.

Remember

Full sun receives more than six hours of sunlight per day.

Partial sun receives 4-6 hours of sun per day.

Full Shade receive less than 4 hours of sun per day.

Step 3: Once you have created the three maps, note how the sun changed through out the day and decide what areas are truly full sun, partial shade and full shade. You may notice that areas you thought were full sun are actually partial shade, as the day progressed.

Final Step: Create the final version of your sun map by combining all three maps findings into one. Now you have a sun map that is accurate and you can use to plan where to plant your crops.

HOW TO START YOUR OWN GARDEN CHECKLIST

Figure out your climate zone

Choose the location of your garden

Check if your soil is healthy for gardening

Choose how you want to garden

Select the crops you will grow

Decide if you will direct sow your crops or transplant them

Research what type of gardening you would like to practice

Create a crop care plan for your crops