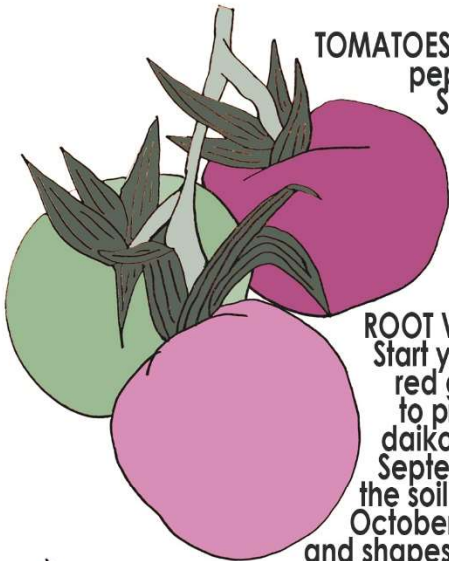
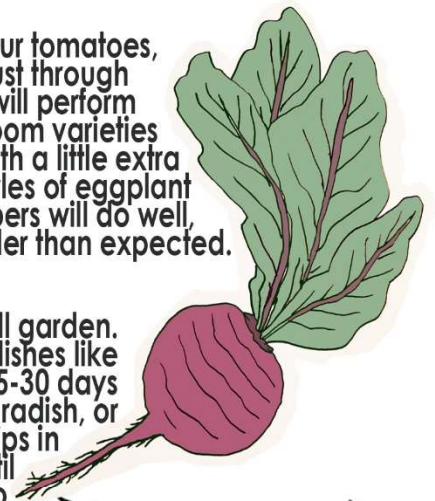


Fall is all about gardening in South Texas! While spring gardens are sometimes cut short because of early heat in Zone 9b, fall is often mild-enough for long, abundant harvests of a wide variety of veggies. These pages contain some gardening tips for your fall gardens in South Texas, as well as a look at some of the types of food you will see available at farmers' markets in mid-late fall and early winter.



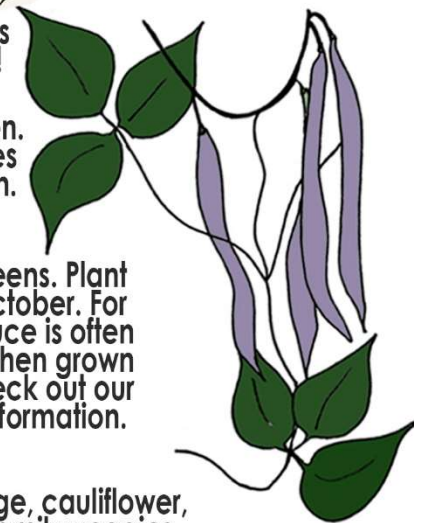
TOMATOES, PEPPERS, AND EGGPLANT: Transplant your tomatoes, peppers and eggplant starts from mid-August through September. Cherry and grape tomatoes will perform the best in our climate, but unique heirloom varieties like Cherokee Purple will also do well with a little extra care. You can find many colors and styles of eggplant to grow here. Both sweet and hot peppers will do well, but some sweet peppers might be smaller than expected.



ROOT VEGGIES: Roots can be the star of your fall garden. Start your radish seeds in September. Small radishes like red globes and French breakfast only take 25-30 days to produce! Winter radishes like watermelon radish, or daikons will take much longer. Plant your turnips in September also. For beets and carrots wait until the soil cools a bit, try around late-September to October. Root veggies have a large variety of colors and shapes to choose from. There's even round carrots!

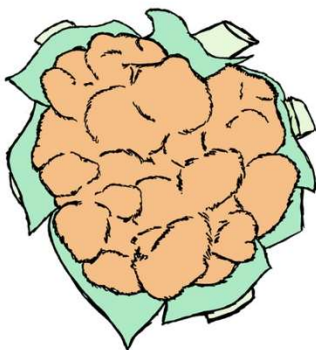


BEANS: Grow both bush beans and pole beans in your fall garden. Check out our Veggie Pages: Beans for more info on varieties and how to grow them.

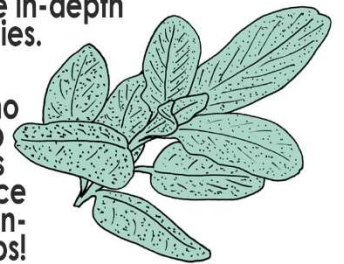


FALL GREENS: Your fall garden can support a lot of greens. Plant greens like spinach and Swiss chard in September - October. For delicate greens like lettuce, wait until the soil is cool. Lettuce is often a winter harvested veggie in our climate as it is very bitter when grown in heat. For greens like collards, cabbage, and kale, check out our Veggie-Pages: Cabbage family for more in-depth information.

CABBAGE FAMILY: Fall is a great time to plant cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, kale, kohlrabi, and all of your cabbage family veggies. Check out our Veggie-Pages: Cabbage Family for more in-depth information on planting and using this family of veggies.



HERBS: Herbs can be grown in every season and fall is no exception! Plant dill around your cabbage family to help deter pests, but keep it away from your tomatoes. Herbs are also a great fall choice for container and small space gardens. Check out our Veggie-Pages: Herbs for more in-depth information on planting herbs!



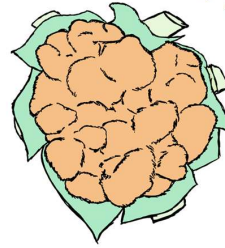
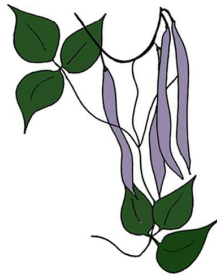
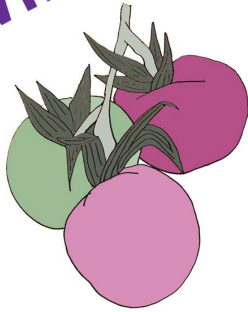


VEGGIE PAGES FALL

USING THE FALL VEGGIES AT HOME QUICK KITCHEN TIPS

- 1. Tomatoes and Basil grow well together in the garden and go well together in the kitchen! When cooking add basil to tomato sauces, or top your margherita pizza with fresh tomato slices and fresh basil leaves. For something cold, try a Caprese salad of tomatoes, basil, mozzarella, olive oil, balsamic vinegar and a little salt.**
- 2. Roots are great for roasting. Roast chopped roots at 400F until tender. Roots can be roasted in a light amount of butter or olive oil. Top with salt, pepper and a squeeze of lemon juice.**
- 3. If you have too many fall greens, consider green smoothies as a way to pack a lot of greens into a little glass. Spinach, kale, chard and even beet greens can be used in smoothies. Experiment to find which taste you like the best.**
- 4. Lots of herbs are great fresh but you may have an over abundance of herbs in your garden. Consider drying your herbs. Herbs can be dried in a dehydrator but if that is not available, research how to hang-dry your herbs or dry in the oven. Store dried herbs in air-tight containers in a cool, dry space.**
- 5. Turnips make a great potato substitute in the fall and winter. They go great in stews and can even be prepared mashed or scalloped.**

GROWING FALL VEGGIES AT HOME



Keep your fall garden watered well, especially during August-October 1st, when the heat will still be very harsh. Water plants at the base of the plant instead of over the leaves to prevent powdery mildew. Water freshly planted areas or very small seedlings gently to not disturb the soil or delicate roots too much.

Dill is a great companion for most brassicas. Growing dill next to plants in this family can repel cabbage worms and many other pests which feed on these plants.

There are lots of pests common in fall gardens in our area. For tomatoes keep an eye out for Horn Worms. Cabbage family and greens attract Harlequin Bugs that drain the sap out of the leaves. Aphids, Army Worms, and Leaf-Footed Bugs are others to look out for.

Sometimes, our area gets a period of very heavy rains during the fall. If you are growing medium-large tomatoes, these rains may cause splitting in your unripe fruits. Consider picking your tomatoes green if you are worried about rains bursting your fruits open.

Grow extra dill to feed Swallowtail Caterpillars. They will consume a lot of dill (and similar plants), but you will be rewarded with beautiful butterflies a little while later!