



Recommended Site Prep for 2017 Vegetable Variety Trial Gardens

SOIL: Use whatever garden soil medium you have available, avoiding problem soils or areas that may have contamination.

- Raised beds can be constructed on top of the recently established lawn. We brought in a 1/3 compost & 2/3 topsoil mix for the beds. For nine 3' x 3' raised beds 12 inches high this equals about 80 cubic feet of soil, or two small pick up truck loads.
- We recommend conducting a soil test of your soil.
- You can see a simple design and short video of the 2012 Vegetable Variety Demo Garden from the Cornell campus here: <https://vimeo.com/40673839>

LAYOUT: The CGBL demonstration garden will be constructed as follows:

- 1) Stake out 15' x 15' foot area, and each 3' x 3' bed area
- 2) Aerate the soil with a garden fork and place cardboard over the entire site
- 3) Lay down approximately 2" of woodchips
- 4) Construct raised beds and fencing for the site, put in place and fill with soil/compost mix
- 5) Add an additional 2 - 4" of woodchips to the path areas between beds

RAISED BEDS: CGBL used milled 2" x 6" x 12' *black locust* to construct our raised beds. (Black locust is a non-treated, rot resistant wood safe for growing food. If this is not available, use **untreated** lumber or another rot-resistant wood. Do NOT use pressure treated lumber. It does last longer but can be toxic to grow edibles in.) To construct 9 beds approximately 108 feet of board is needed. You can simply mark out 3' x 3' spaces in existing beds, adapt existing raised beds, or construct beds from whatever materials are readily available and affordable.

FENCING: Our fencing is approximately 4' tall and consists of small diameter black locust posts sunk 24" into the ground (6' total length), with posts every 5 feet. We fit cross pieces and then line the fenced area with black plastic deer netting – which we plan to replace with something stronger in the future to allow for vertical growing. This equates to needing twelve posts, sixteen crosspieces, and 60 feet of 4' deer netting.

SIGNAGE: The signage we send you and use in our garden will be 8.5 X 11 sheets with information for each garden bed (9). The signage will contain descriptions of the selected varieties and the associated ecological gardening technique. In addition, there will be two (2) signs promoting the vegetable varieties site. We **will not** provide a



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension

means to hold signage; **you will need to figure out an outdoor system that works best for your garden and can hold up in the rain.**

GARDEN PLANTING:

County offices doing the **FULL trial** will receive plant starts on **May 4th at Cornell University** and will receive seeds for direct sowing in March.

Offices doing the PARTIAL trial should plan to start your own seeds and may follow the seed variety guide available at: <http://gardening.cals.cornell.edu/vvtg/>.

ALL Counties should plan on supplying your own **Fall or late season seeds** including garlic and **cover crop seed**.

QUESTIONS can be directed to **Fiona Doherty**, fcd9@cornell.edu.

2017 Vegetable Varieties for Gardeners

