

WEEKLY NEWS COLUMN
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RESOURCES FOR THE ROOKIE VEGETABLE GARDENER

We are in changing times, which means families are making changes to how they live and where they get their food. In recent weeks an increasing number of families are expressing an interest in gardening, and many are inexperienced gardeners. K-State Research and Extension is here to help.

Rookie gardeners often have many questions, the first one being, "How do I get started?". K-State Research and Extension has a publication that can help. The "Vegetable Garden Planting Guide" gives information on the size of planting needed per person as well as the average crop expected per 10 feet. The Garden Guide also includes a garden calendar which highlights suggested planting dates and expected harvest dates. Crop specific information is also included (days to germination, plants or seeds needed per 10 feet of row, depth of planting, spacing within the row and spacing between rows). The Vegetable Garden Planting Guide is available from the Cowley County Extension Office or online at <http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/bookstore/pubs/mf315.pdf>.

The "Kansas Garden Guide" is a 77-page, in-depth booklet also available from the Cowley County Extension Office. This guide includes sections on planning a garden, composting, improving soil, seeding and planting, garden care, watering, planting gardens for fall production, insect and disease control, container gardening, season extension, harvesting, storing, and growing specific vegetables and herbs. The Kansas Garden Guide is available in the Cowley County Extension Office for \$6, or can be ordered at <http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/bookstore/Item.aspx?catId=534&pubId=8219> for \$6.10.

K-State Research and Extension provides a variety of resources to gardeners of all experience levels. Soil testing through the soil testing lab at Kansas State University provides information to improve/keep your soil healthy. Online resources including <https://kansashealthyyards.org> and <https://hnr.k-state.edu/extension/info-center/> provide a variety of information for healthy lawns, gardening, growing flowers and trees.

For more information or additional gardening resources, contact the Cowley County Extension Office 221-5450, 441-4565.

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