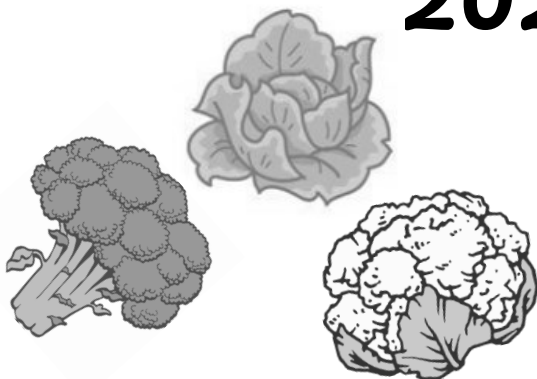


*Fort Bend County  
Master Gardeners*

**2025**



*Fall  
Vegetable & Herb  
Plants*

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Due to conditions beyond our control all plants listed may not be available.

**Do you have a question about a plant or insect problem, or how to care for your plants?**

**Contact the Fort Bend County  
Master Gardener  
Help Desk  
281-341-7068**

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## BROCCOLI

**APOLLO** - Broccoli is a rich source of vitamins C, K, and B-complex, and lots of minerals. After the main head is harvested, copious amounts of long-stemmed side shoots can be picked over a long period. The side shoots, stems and all, are deliciously tender and tasty. For prolific side-shoots, plant with extra space between plants and encourage branching by cutting the main head when it's small. Encourage side shoots by cutting regularly. The resulting stalks and buds are extra sweet and tender due to the lower-fiber content, and are delectable in a veggie stir-fry. **Light:** Full Sun. **Plant:** 18-24" apart. **Plant Height:** 24" tall. **Harvest Tips:** Before flower buds open, cut the central head at a 45° angle.

**GREEN MAGIC - TEXAS SUPER STAR** - Enjoy beautiful, smooth, medium-sized heads of blue-green broccoli. Generous yields made even better by excellent tolerance to downy mildew. Plants are compact and grow quite well in containers. This variety has excellent heat tolerance. **Light:** Full Sun. **Plant:** 24" apart. **Height:** up to 24". **Water:** Adequate even moisture, mulching helps retain moisture. **Head Size:** 5 to 6". **Disease Resistance:** Downy mildew and heat stress. **Harvest:** Pick when heads are tight before flower buds start to open. Suitable for picking two ways: cut the entire crown in one fell swoop, or the central stalk first, then numerous side-shoots as they arise afterwards. Cutting the main head encourages side-shoot growth perfect for snacking or sautéing. **Tip:** Prefers fertile soil, rich in organic matter.

**RAPINI - HEIRLOOM** - Known as "cima di rapa" or "rapini," this robust and rich-tasting traditional Italian heirloom is a quick growing, cool season favorite. This high-yield non-heading broccoli is grown for flavorful, tender flower shoots and leaves which have a wonderfully delicate and slightly bitter, peppery broccoli flavor. These vitamin-rich greens, can be enjoyed in salads, stir-fries, or steamed. **Light:** Sun/Part Sun. **Height:** 20-28" at maturity. **Water:** Consistent supply of moisture throughout the growing season. Irrigate regularly for best results. **Harvest:** Both leaves and 7-8" tall flowering stalks can be harvested when heads are tight and before flower buds open for best flavor. After cutting, water plants well for a second harvest in a few weeks, treat as a cut and come again plant. Regular harvesting encourages continued production. Flavor improves with cooler weather.

## BRUSSELS SPROUTS

**JADE CROSS** - 1959 All America Winner. Sprouts are borne all the way up the stalk. Flavor is excellent and yield is very abundant. **Light:** Full Sun/Part Shade. **Plant:** 18-24" apart. **Height:** 2 - 2 1/2 ft. at maturity. **Harvest:** Start picking from bottom up, when they are firm and 1" across, cutting off the leaf below the sprout. To harvest all the sprouts at once cut off the top of the stalk 4-8 weeks before you want to harvest or when lower sprouts reach 1/2" in size. **Tip:** A heavy feeder- transplant into well composted soil.

## CABBAGE

**EARLY JERSEY WAKEFIELD** - After nearly 170 years, still one of the best picks for a small, early cabbage. The 2-4 lb., pale green, pointed heads have a delicious flavor, few outer leaves and can be planted close together. Resists yellows and splitting. **Light:** Full Sun/Partial Shade. **Plant:** 12-15" apart for small head varieties. **Water:** Maintain consistent moisture to prevent heads from cracking. Water on the sides of the plant and avoid wetting any part of the plant. **Harvest:** If the heads feel solid by pushing on them lightly they are ready to harvest. Harvest as soon as possible for early varieties to prevent splitting. Later maturing varieties will hold longer. **Tips:** Mulch, provide fertilizer, and adequate moisture for optimum growth.

**RED PERFECTION** - This purple-red cabbage is a great cool weather vegetable that produces firm 3-4 lb. heads. This colorful cabbage makes an attractive addition to slaws, salads and cooked foods. **Light:** Full Sun. **Water:** Normal. **Height:** 1-2'. **Plant:** 18" apart.

## CAULIFLOWER

**EARLY SNOWBALL** - This early maturing variety produces heads 6-8" across and quite erect, top is smooth and pure white. Known for rapid growth and long harvest time. Excellent choice for home gardens. **Light:** Sun/Part Shade. **Plant:** 18" apart. **Height:** 10-24". **Harvest:** This variety is self-blanching with long wrapping leaves curl around heads protecting them from the sun. **Uses:** Enjoy it sautéed, mashed, in soups, stews or casseroles. A good freezer variety. **Tips:** A heavy feeder, plant in rich, well composted soil. Feeding once a month will promote vigor and development of the heads. It is also frost tolerant.

**SNOW CROWN** - Heads are medium large, reasonably early, with many exceeding 2 pounds in weight. This All America Award winner produces dependably even under adverse conditions.

**Light:** Sun/Part Sun. **Plant:** 18" apart. **Harvest:** Tie up leaves around heads to blanch (keep white). Watch closely and pick before the curds begin to loosen. **Tips:** A heavy feeder transplant into rich, well composted soil and side dress when buds begin to form.

## GREENS

**COLLARDS - VATES** - This is a large plant in the brassica family, popular in the South although easily grown anywhere. It is slow to bolt, and tolerates cold and frost. Usually eaten cooked instead of raw, the flavor seems to improve after a frost. Collards can also be added to baked dishes and quickly braised. Consider cooking with a cider vinegar or soy sauce and sesame oil. Vitamin content is excellent. Leaves are an attractive blue-green. Requires several square feet of space when fully mature. **Light:** Sun. **Plant:** 14-18" apart. **Height:** 24".

**PAK CHOI – WIN- WIN CHOI** - This vase-shaped Pac Choi is similar to Joi Choi, just a little smaller and more compact. The large bulky, uniform white-stems are very tasty. In the South, Pac Choi is well adapted for fall plantings. **Plant:** 10-12" apart. **Height:** 10 -12". **Light:** Sun/Part Shade. **Water:** Requires even moisture and 1-2" of water per week. **Harvest:** Harvest before flowering. The plant can be harvested by cutting down the entire plant or picking each leaf individually as they grow. Discard any yellow leaves and pick the leaves when they are young and tender, as older and larger leaves taste more bitter.

**MUSTARD - FLORIDA BROADLEAF- HEIRLOOM** - This variety of Mustard is a southern favorite for fall planting. Mustard greens are a cool season crop and do not do well in the summer heat. Mild-flavored mustard, producing large savory green leaves. Delicious either steamed, sautéed or eaten raw in a mixed green salad or sandwich. **Size at Maturity:** Up to 25". **Light:** Prefers full sun or partial shade. **Plant:** 6" apart. **Water:** Mustard greens need plenty of water to thrive, keep an eye on rainfall to prevent wilting. **Harvest:** Pick mustard greens when the leaves are tender and young. Cut the whole plant at the base or cut only the leaves needed for a meal.

## KALE

**LACINATO (Tuscana)** - This heirloom has a long history traced back to Tuscany in the 18th century. A rather primitive open kale with 3 inch-wide strapped leaves that are 10 inches long. Very tolerant of cold temperatures as flavor becomes sweeter after a hard frost. **Light:** Sun. **Plant:** 24" apart. **Height:** 2-3' plants. **Harvest:** Pick the leaves from the bottom up for continuous harvest. **Tips:** Full of vitamins A and K.

**RUSSIAN RED - HEIRLOOM** - Kale is a staple in Eastern European cooking. Ease of growth, variety of uses, nutrition and delicious flavor (particularly after a frost) make kale an ideal addition to any garden and diet. Tender, oak shaped leaves change from reddish green to red after a frost. May be left in the garden for harvest throughout the winter. **Light:** Sun/Part Sun. **Plant:** 12-24" apart. **Harvest:** Pick young leaves starting at 8-10" long from the middle upward. **Tips:** Leaves become very sweet after frost.

## KOHLRABI

**DELICACY WHITE** - This variety has been described as very early with a small top, and the leaf stems are purple tinged. The purple color bulbs are of medium size with white flesh. **Light:** Sun. **Harvest:** For most tender and sweet bulbs harvest those under 2". Fall plantings can survive frosts and can be harvested when they are larger. **Tips:** Grows best in the cooler weather. Summer heat makes the bulbs woody and dry. Provide fertilizer and adequate moisture for optimum growth.

## LETTUCE

**ARUGULA** - A somewhat pungent salad green. Young leaves are sort of nutty and mustardy. Older leaves can become unpleasantly bitter, the leaves of arugula provide a spicy zap when added to a salad. Young leaves taste best. You can also sauté or steam them like spinach or other leafy greens. Plants look a little like dandelion, but more open. Leaves grow best in cool weather. **Light:** Full sun, will tolerate partial shade. **Plant:** 12-18" apart. **Height:** 6-12". **Water:** Moist but well drained soil.

**BLACK SEEDED SIMPSON - HEIRLOOM 1875** - An old favorite introduced by Henderson Seed Co. Light green frilly leaves, a loose head, and very dependable. Small leaves can be harvested very early. **Light:** Sun. **Plant:** 6-12" apart, depending on the size of lettuce you want from baby to full heads. **Harvest:** Cut whole head at base or individual leaves before lettuce starts to bolt and becomes bitter in warmer weather. **Tips:** Plant in fertile soil with lots of organic matter and adequate water.

**BUTTERCRUNCH** - This bibb type produces a loose head, 8 to 9" across. Dark green and slow to bolt, it has been rated one of the 12 best vegetable introductions. It was developed at Cornell in 1963. **Light:** Sun/Part Shade. **Plant:** 8-12" apart. **Harvest:** Cut whole head at base or individual leaves before lettuce starts to bolt and becomes bitter in warmer weather. **Tips:** Plant into fertile soil with lots of organic matter and adequate water for optimum growth.

**OAK LEAF** - The most heat-resistant variety of lettuce. The taste never turns bitter. The crisp flavorful leaves form a tight center with loose outer leaves. Tender and tasty leaves are medium green and have an oak leaf shape. **Light:** Sun. **Plant:** 10-12" apart. **Water:** Provide water to prevent wilting in hot afternoons. **Harvest:** The individual leaves can be picked to provide any size salad; plant will continue to grow during the season.

**RED ROMAINE** - The merlot colored leaves of romaine lettuce are beautiful and delicious in Caesar salads. Long, wide, spoon shaped leaves have a crisp, crunchy texture. **Light:** Sun. **Water:** Provide water to prevent wilting in hot afternoons. **Height:** 12" but can be harvested earlier for baby romaine heads. **Plant** 8-12" apart. **Harvest:** Cut whole heads at the base or individual leaves before lettuce starts to bolt and become bitter.

**RED SALAD BOWL** - Introduced in the early 1950s. This variety is deeply lobed, burgundy red and delicious. The cooler the weather the more intense the burgundy color becomes. Can be grown as baby lettuce as well as full size. Slow to bolt. **Light:** Sun. **Height:** 9-15". **Plant:** 8-10" apart. **Harvest:** Cut leaves as needed for salad, will continue to grow and produce new leaves throughout the season.

## SWISS CHARD

**BRIGHT LIGHTS** - Almost neon in appearance, the leaves are green, with veins of vibrant color, red, orange, or yellow running through them. **Light:** Sun. **Plant:** 10-15" apart. **Harvest:** Remove outer leaves starting at 6". Use young raw leaves in a salad or briefly cook mature leaves to maintain their color. Use the leaves and center ribs cooked or raw. **Tips:** Great for planting in an ornamental edible garden for color effect.

## HERBS

**CILANTRO - LONG STANDING SANTO** - This variety has an excellent flavor, improved leafiness and, as the name infers, it is slow to bolt in warmer weather. **Light:** Sun/Part Shade. **Height:** 12–24". **Width:** 6–12". **Harvest:** Foliage flavor is best before the leaves turn feathery and plants begin to flower. Seeds should be harvested after they begin to turn brown and when outer coat cracks, but before they drop off the plant and scatter. Cut stem and place in a brown paper sack to collect the seeds. Rubbing the seeds will cause the outer shell to drop off. **Uses:** Add a sprig to chicken soup or add chopped leaves to Mexican, Caribbean, or Asian dishes. The crushed seeds add intriguing flavor to stews, beans, and cookies. Grows best in cool temperatures. **Tips:** Grows well in containers and attracts beneficial insects.

**DILL - FERNLEAF** - An All American Winner in 1992. This variety is smaller than other dill varieties, and can be grown in containers and small gardens. It is a lovely ornamental plant with its yellow flowers, deep— green foliage, and compact growth habit. Keep plants cut to delay flowering and extend harvest, or harvest the whole plant as soon as it flowers. Dill, like parsley and fennel, draws the larva of the black swallowtail butterfly. Plant enough to feed yourself and the caterpillars. Far from a pest, the butterflies are often encouraged by gardeners who plant dill and parsley in patches just to attract them. **Light:** Sun. **Plant:** 12-15" apart. **Height:** 18-24". **In the Garden:** Plant dill far away from fennel, since the cross-pollination of these herbs produces variable results. **Uses:** In addition to pickles, use in salad dressing, sauerkraut and even bread. Enjoy the leaves at their peak when they are fresh, finely chopped for best flavor.

### **MEXICAN MINT MARIGOLD- TEXAS TARRAGON -**

**TEXAS SUPER STAR** - Used as a substitute for French tarragon. Often compared to licorice and anise. Leaves are best used raw or added at the end of cooking. Goes well in fish and chicken dishes, soups, salads, pesto, and vinegars. In Mexico, leaves and flowers are used for tea. Can be used for dried flower arrangements. Does very well in hot climates. **Light:** Full Sun/Part Shade. **Height:** 2'. **Water:** Low. **Tip:** Attracts bees.

**OREGANO - GREEK** - This oregano has the true flavor that we have come to associate with pizza sauce and other Italian dishes. Add the pungent green leaves for great flavor. Form is upright with a low-growing, spreading habit. **Light:** Full sun. **Height:** 6-8". **Harvest:** Pick stem of leaves as needed.

**PARSLEY - FLAT LEAF** - Also called Italian parsley, its uses are similar to the curly variety, but the flavor is a bit stronger. Plants produce sprigs of large, flat leaves all season. Preferred in Italian cooking. **Light:** Sun/Part Shade. **Height:** 1'. **Tips:** Plant in fall or spring. Frost tolerant.

**SAGE - CULINARY** - A strong, herbaceous perennial, it is a good fall and winter plant in hot climates. The broad grey-green leaves and beautiful purple flower spikes make this a fantastic ornamental. **Light:** Full Sun. **Height:** 12-36". **Plant:** 18-24" apart. **Water:** Needs good drainage. **Uses:** Add the uniquely flavored leaves to sauces, stuffing, poultry, pork, and sausage. It provides a lovely fragrance and flavor to a dish, especially when leaves are sautéed before adding.

**SALAD BURNET** - A pretty perennial that produces white or rosy flowers. Leaves are used in salads for their cucumber-like flavor. Keeps growing from fall through summer, may die back with cold temps but will return. **Light:** Sun/Shade. **Height:** 12-18". **Uses:** Toss into salads. A real find for those who love the taste of cucumber, but find it somewhat difficult to digest. Also use in a garden bed as a low border plant.

**THYME - FRENCH** - Softly mounding plants of cascading grey-green leaves are a good accent in every garden. Intensely aromatic thyme is indispensable in all kinds of savory dishes throughout the classic Mediterranean cuisines of France, Italy and Greece and enhances both Cajun and Creole food. Use the spicy little leaves every day to combine and blend beautifully with the flavors of lemon, garlic, basil and parsley for seasoning vegetables, seafood and poultry. **Light:** Full Sun. **Height:** 8-12". **Harvest:** Given a sunny location with good drainage, easy-growing thyme plants are reliable, productive and long-lived garden perennials. Small lilac flowers bloom in midsummer, cut back foliage halfway when the blossoms fade to keep plants looking fresh. Cut leafy thyme sprigs as needed once plants are well established. **Tips:** Thyme is easy to freeze or dry. Frost hardy. Attracts butterflies and bees.

## SAVE THE DATES

**2026 Fruit & Citrus  
Tree Sale**  
**Sat., Feb 14, 2026**  
**9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**2026 Spring Vegetable  
-Herb Plant Sale**  
**Sat., March 7, 2026**  
**9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Visit [www.fbm.org](http://www.fbm.org) for details

## ONLINE RESOURCES

For more information on varieties, planting, and maintenance of your vegetables and herbs, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service has a number of publications available including:

**AgriLife Learn:**

<https://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu/s/>

**Aggie Horticulture:**

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu>

**Aggie Horticulture Vegetables Resources:**

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/vegetable/easy-gardening-series/>

For additional information or to receive printed copies of a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service publication, please contact the Master Gardener HelpDesk at 281-341-7068 or [fortbendmg@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:fortbendmg@ag.tamu.edu).

### Give Your Plants a Great Start in the Garden

Adapted from the Texas Master Gardener Handbook

#### Acclimating—Hardening Off

Plants that are purchased as ready to transplant into your garden have probably been grown in a greenhouse environment and have not been exposed to the outdoor elements (wind, cold or warm temps, direct sun light, and pests). Greenhouse grown plants are healthy and disease free, but need to be conditioned to the location they will be planted in.

Plants need to adapt to the new environment; this is called **Hardening Off**. This process can take a few days depending on the weather. You will need to gradually expose the plants to the light, wind, and current temperature over several days to a week. Especially if the temperature is fluctuating, cold for a few days, then warm, then cold again.

- Set plants out in filtered morning light for a few hours.
- Each day extend the time of exposure as well as the amount of light. Watch for signs of over exposure such as wilting, yellowing leaves and/or dry soil.
- Do not transplant to the garden in full sun for at least a week.

#### Transplanting in the Garden

Several days before you plan to add the plants to the garden prepare the soil by adding any additives that needs time to breakdown such as manure, etc.

On the day you move the plants to the garden add compost to the area and mix in.

Several hours before transplanting, water the plants thoroughly. Do not allow the roots to dry out completely. Handle the plants with care to prevent disturbing the roots or stems. Gently remove the plant from the pot by gently taping the side of the pot and sliding the plant out, keeping the existing soil around the roots to help protect them.

### **Transplant Depth**

Check the recommended spacing for each type of plant to ensure there is enough room for growth at maturity. Additionally, set the plants at the depth or slightly deeper that they were planted in the pot.

An exception to this rule is planting tomatoes. These can be planted deep, up to lowest set of leaves. If the tomato plant is very tall remove leaves up to the top 2 or 3 sets and plant as deep as possible. New roots will develop on the stem area that is under the soil, this will provide a strong root system and provide stability for the plant as it grows taller. Ask a Master Gardener how to plant a tomato by laying it in a trench.

Dig the hole larger than root system and set the plant in the hole and press soil firmly around the roots. Pour 1 cup of started solution around the plant (see fertilizer section for details).

### **Fertilizing**

Fertilizer is the food for plants. It is made up of 3 elements nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) potassium (K) mixed in various combinations depending on the needs of the plant: Nitrogen provides leafy top growth, phosphorus for root and fruit production and potassium for cold hardiness, disease resistance, and general durability.

A good starter solution can be made using a balanced fertilizer such as 20-20-20. Mix 1-2 tablespoons of the fertilizer in 1 gallon of water. Apply 1 cup of the solution to the hole of each transplant. Do not over fertilize as this can cause burn damage to the roots and plant.

Be careful to follow manufacturer recommended guidelines for additional fertilizing during the growing season. Tomatoes, peppers and eggplants benefit from a balanced fertilizer that provides the nutrients needed for healthy plants that have good fruit production.

*Texas Master Gardener Handbook*. Edited by Jayla B. Fry, 7th ed., Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, 2019.

# TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

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***Call the Master Gardener Help Desk  
with all of your gardening questions!***

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[fortbendmg@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:fortbendmg@ag.tamu.edu)  
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Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons.

The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

Revised 9/24/2025