

Helpful Websites:

<https://gardening.usask.ca/gardening-advice>

<https://www.bhg.com>

<https://laidbackgardener.blog>

<https://thisismygarden.com>

<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com>

<https://oldworldgardenfarms.com/>

Also please follow us on:



<https://www.stjameshorticulturalsociety.ca>



<https://www.facebook.com/stjamesshortsociety>



https://www.instagram.com/st_james_horticultural_society



NEW GARDENERS' HANDBOOK

Welcome to Silver Ave. Community Garden, St. James Horticultural Society! This is a special place and has been a community garden since the 1940's! We hope you enjoy the connection here with the earth, with nature, and with your fellow gardeners. We also hope you enjoy a great bounty from your garden!



Did you know . . .

- ◆ that you can order compost from local soil companies to be delivered to the garden? They will dump it on the periphery of the garden where you specify. It is cheaper the more you order, so you might want to go together with other gardeners with your order.
- ◆ that you can make arrangements to get your garden rototilled for a fee or borrow tools from the garden committee by emailing stjameshortgardeners@gmail.com?
- ◆ that the wood chips located on the periphery of the garden are free for the taking for pathways around the garden?
- ◆ that the following garden centres offer a ten percent discount for SJHS members when you show your membership card: Jensen's Nursery, Lacoste's, Leon's Garden (before July 1), St. Mary's Nursery, Sage Gardens, Schriemer's, Shelmerdine's, T&T Seeds



Vegetable Planting Chart

SOUTHERN PRAIRIES

Vegetables	WINTER			SPRING			SUMMER			FALL		
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Amaranth						**						
Artichoke			*****			**						
Arugula												
Asparagus			*****			**						
Broad beans												
Soya beans												
Beans, bush & pole												
Beets												
Broccoli				*****		**						
Broccoli, overwinter												
Brussels sprouts					****		**					
Cabbage				*****		**						
Cabbage, overwinter												
Carrots												
Cauliflower				*****		**						
Cauliflower, overwinter							***	**				
Celery/Celery				*****		**						
Corn												
Corn salad												
Cucumbers					***	**						
Eggplant				*****		**						
Endive/Radicchio												
Fennel				*****								
Garlic												
Kale & Collards				*****		**						
Kohlrabi				*****		**						
Leeks				*****		*						
Lettuce				*****								**
Melons					**	***						
Onions, sweet				*****		**						
Onions, storage				*****		**						
Onions, overwinter												
Onions scallions												
Pac choi & choy sum												
Parsley				*****								
Parsnips												
Peas												
Peppers				*****		**						
Quinoa												
Radish												
Rutabaga												
Spinach												
Squash				****	**							
Swiss chard												
Tomatoes				*****		**						
Turnips												

Grande Prairie	May 18 - Sept. 13 (117 days)	Lethbridge	May 17 - Sept. 18 (123 days)	Moose Jaw	May 20 - Sept. 18 (120 days)
Edmonton	May 7 - Sept. 23 (138 days)	North Battleford	May 19 - Sept. 17 (120 days)	Weyburn	May 22 - Sept. 12 (112 days)
Red Deer	May 25 - Sept. 9 (106 days)	Saskatoon	May 21 - Sept. 15 (116 days)	Brandon	May 27 - Sept. 10 (106 days)
Calgary	May 23 - Sept. 15 (114 days)	Yorkton	May 23 - Sept. 11 (110 days)	Winnipeg	May 25 - Sept. 22 (120 days)
Medicine Hat	May 16 - Sept. 22 (128 days)	Regina	May 21 - Sept. 10 (111 days)		

1-888-804-8820 • www.westcoastseeds.com

Retail Store: 4930A Elliott Street, Ladner, BC, Canada, V4K 2Y1
 Warehouse: 5300 348 Avenue, Delta, BC, V4L 2P1
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Here are some things to consider as you start this new project:

- ◆ Taking on a garden plot here requires a lot of work! While it is totally worth it, it will take a lot of your time, thought, energy and manpower. There may be moments when you get discouraged, when nature and the elements seem to be working against you and your garden! But there will also be the joy and satisfaction you feel when you see the fruits of your labour.
- ◆ The soil here in the Red River Valley is a rich clay soil. If it is worked up or walked on when it is wet, it can become rock hard and it will be difficult for anything to grow in it. This soil benefits greatly from adding organic matter, which will balance the clay and make it more productive.



- ◆ At Silver Ave. Community Garden, we can choose whether we want to till our garden or not. Tilling or conventional gardening is the practice of mechanically turning up the soil surface using a rototiller, shovel or hoe. Tilling has some benefits for sure. It aerates the ground and breaks up compacted soil, which can improve production. Recent research, however, has found that there can be a downside to tilling. Tilling interferes with the balance of nature's underground growing system. It can destroy the natural structure that supports and protects our plants. By practising no-till or low till, we can work with Mother Nature rather than against her.



- ◆ Whether gardeners go the till or the no-till route, adding organic matter/compost is so beneficial for your garden. It increases the quality and the fertility of the soil. As well, leaving your garden residue on your plot by the simple method of “chop and drop” will also add to the quality of your soil. Simply chop your garden waste and leave it on the ground. It will decompose and enrich your garden.

- ◆ Our garden has its share of pests of the human kind: people who come to steal produce or tools. Here are the tips the community police officers have given us: Report, report, report, any theft large or small, whether wagons, or a bunch of carrots. Go to <https://www.winnipeg.ca/police/services/report-crime> to report. The police want to know the frequency of thefts. They will keep track and if it gets to be a lot, they will do drive-bys, which they call "passing attention". If there is anything suspicious, person or otherwise, call 204-986-6222 immediately. With your personal possessions, identifying stolen objects is important. Take pictures of your tools, wagons, wheelbarrows. Put identifying marks on them. Get to know your neighbours. Remember, only members are allowed in the garden.

- ◆ Our garden runs by volunteers. If you have some free time, please consider volunteering. It will be rewarding. Look for volunteer opportunities on Facebook or Instagram under St. James Horticultural Society.



- ◆ If you have a question or concern, look for the “Ask Me” signs in the garden, or email stjameshortgardeners@gmail.com

- ◆ Now for the fun part - what to plant and when. Here is a list of some of the vegetables that gardeners have had success growing here, and when they might be planted.

(Information taken from www.GettyStewart.com)

Cold Weather Crops (4 weeks before last average frost, late April, early May)

kale, lettuce, onions, peas, radishes, spinach, Swiss chard

Cool Weather Crops (2 weeks before last frost, when soil has warmed somewhat, mid May)

beets, broccoli, Brussel sprouts, cabbage, carrots, parsley, potatoes (note: for potatoes, be ready to pick potato bugs)

Warm Weather Crops (after last frost date, soil is warm, no risk of frost, May 24-early June)

beans, cucumbers, corn, melons, peppers, tomatoes, squash, pumpkins, zucchini)

Many gardeners buy transplants or start them indoors for plants that have a longer growing season, such as broccoli, Brussel sprouts, cabbage, tomatoes, and squash.

- ◆ Another thing to think about is where to plant. You may want to research what plants grow well together, and what plants can help keep insect pests away. You may also want to consider crop rotation for future years.



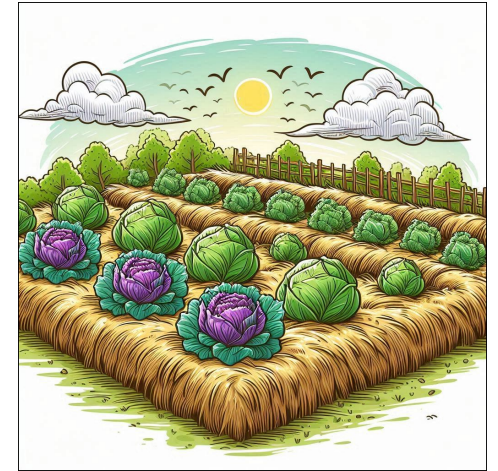
- ◆ Quack grass is our nemesis here in Silver Ave. Community Garden. While there are other weeds for sure, quack grass is the most problematic because it is so invasive. If not dealt with, it can take over a garden, stealing the moisture and nutrients, and choking out what you've planted. It spreads not only from seed, but from rhizomes. Even a small piece of root can start a new plant.

For gardeners who have a garden plot infested with quack grass, it is important to control the quack grass prior to planting a garden, whether managing a plot using a no-till or no-dig system or conventional tillage system.



There are a number of methods one can use to control quack grass. The most effective method is to use a garden fork to turn the soil to a depth of about 8 inches, carefully removing all roots and rhizomes. However, this method can be physically demanding. Another method is rototilling, which should be done at least twice before planting. The second tilling should take place 10 to 14 days after the first, with roots and rhizomes removed after each rototilling. While easier, rototilling has drawbacks: it may not reach deep enough, and it can break roots and rhizomes into small pieces, making them harder to remove. A third method involves covering the garden plot with black plastic or thick cardboard to block sunlight, gradually weakening or killing the quack grass. However, this requires keeping the plot covered for an entire growing season. Once the quack grass is removed and after the garden has been planted, throughout the growing season it's essential to promptly dig out any new shoots, ensuring the roots and rhizomes are fully eliminated.

- ◆ Aim to avoid having bare soil in your garden. Whenever you can, cover the soil with organic mulch. Cover crops can also work well in certain circumstances.



- ◆ We have 4 community water taps on the periphery of the garden where you can get water to haul to your plot. Gardeners often get creative with finding ways to make the water hauling easier, such as using a wagon. Garden hoses are not allowed to be attached to the taps for use in the garden plots. Water



will be turned on mid-May and turned off mid-September, weather dependent. Please use water wisely. Garden vegetables, garden tools, and boots should be washed at your garden plot or at home, not at the community water taps.

- ◆ Synthetic herbicides and insecticides are strictly prohibited in our gardens.