

VEGETABLE GARDENING FOR BEGINNERS: GETTING STARTED SPEAKER NOTES

Slide

- 5-8 Explain that garden design must take into consideration the tools at your disposal; discuss the tool selections along with pros/cons
- 10 **Distribute and discuss briefly variety pick handouts**
- 13 **Distribute and discuss briefly the sample garden plans**
- 16 remove or destroy sod before preparing a garden bed. If you use Glyphosate, be sure to apply only where you want the sod killed. A better option: remove the sod by hand.
- 23 **Distribute and discuss briefly the cover crops handout**, and encourage gardeners to include a cover crop in their garden plans
- 26 Explain the test to know when soil is workable. Top right soil is too wet, low right too dry. Workable soil should form a somewhat cohesive ball when squeezed, without excess moisture seeping out, yet should fall apart when dropped back onto the ground.
- 28 Seed spacing (minimum number shown on packet), depth (no more than 4X width of seed), adequate moisture until germination.
- 29 Transplant care (minimal root disturbance unless rootbound, same depth unless tomatoes, recommended spacing, thorough watering until rainfall)
- Discuss planting calendar and planting date handouts**
- 33 Protection at planting outdoors especially important if plants have not been hardened off
- 34-37 Plant in proper air temperature, but to extend the season or if the weather changes, some precautions can be taken
- 38-41 Provide support to prevent soil contact and improve air circulation for healthier plants
- 42-43 Proper spacing assists in air circulation, nutrient availability and better weed control
- 46-50 Water is #1 limiting factor in plant growth; discuss amount (1" per week), method of application (no overhead watering), and retention (mulch)
- Distribute and discuss mulch handout**
- 51 **Distribute and discuss harvest handout**