

Get Your Vegetable Garden Ready ▶ [Vegetable Gardening](#)

A P R I L 2 0 0 9



"How do I start and what should I grow?"

A Bountiful Vegetable Garden Made Easy

By Kathy LaLiberte

If you've been thinking about planting a vegetable garden this year, and aren't exactly sure what to do – we've got you covered! Our new Kitchen Garden Planner is a fun, interactive way to plan a vegetable garden that's easy to care for and will yield an impressive harvest of fresh, home-grown produce.

The garden plans are based on the footprint of a 3'x6' raised bed – the most popular and space-efficient raised bed that we offer. You can select one of our six pre-planned gardens, or design your own custom garden with the vegetables YOU want to eat! We provide a planting map, planting instructions, a step-by-step guide for setting up and caring for your garden, and lots more.

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Our maps show you what fits in a 3' x 6' bed.

Tame Your Perennials: Divide and Conquer!

As spring makes its slow return, perennial gardens begin to stir. The weather is cool and the soil is moist. Emerging plants are slow and sleepy. These early spring days, which usually last only a few weeks, are the best time of year for dividing perennials.

If you have an established perennial garden that's more than two or three years old, chances are good that you have some plants out there (probably quite a few) that need your attention. The window of activity is small, so there's no time to waste!

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Divide your perennials regularly to ensure healthy, vigorous growth.

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When people get interested in food gardening, they tend to stick with traditional annual vegetable crops, such as tomatoes, beans and lettuce. But there are many other terrific food crops that yield a bountiful harvest with far less effort. Perennial fruits and vegetables, such as asparagus, blueberries and rhubarb, get planted once and then go on to produce food for several years and in some cases, a lifetime!

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Tip: Go Deep When Repotting Tomatoes

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GARDENER'S Journal **READ OUR BLOG**

Woodchucks Foiled by Pop-Up Nets

For years, my neighbor Vicki and I have commiserated on the woodchuck problem in our area. I finally gained control by fencing the back yard and burying chicken wire along the perimeter and attaching it to the fence. Vicki, on the other hand, has an exposed yard. Year after year, she'd tell me of lost crops: lettuce, broccoli, peas and more. I felt a little guilty, knowing that the woodchucks I'd displaced were surely feasting on her crops. Meanwhile, my asters were safe. So, I was excited to hear that she'd found a way to protect her crops from the woodchucks. What's more, no shots were fired!

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