

How to Build a Vegetable Garden in the Arizona Desert

A G E N D A

A. Planning your Garden

1. Why do you want to garden?
2. To feed yourself? Others?
3. Best location in your yard
4. Soil Testing if desired
5. Distance from water source – no more than 50ft preferred
6. Type of Garden – Furrow; raised bed; sunken bed in ground

B. Where to Start

1. Measure dimensions
2. Determine drip needed; cut pieces and lay on the ground
3. We recommend 4ft allowances for the rows: 24 inch planting area and walking row alongside planting area
4. Learn to twist out dripline that has been coiled
5. Understand how Netafem emitters work; see sample
6. Soil amendments; broadfork; solarizing ground; rototilling; raking sides

C. Planting the Garden

1. Laying out a planting plan; make a map
2. Make sure to plant what is in season or you may be disappointed
3. Use “end caps”
4. Make a trellis from found objects; upcycle
5. How to make plant labels with clothespins & plastic squares
6. Cover seeded rows with tulle to prevent birds a rabbits from eating new seedlings
7. Removed tulle when plants are about 3-4 inches tall; roll up to reuse
8. How to plant bedding plants versus seeds; mixture is good
9. Watering in; why so important
10. Mulching later

D. Miscellaneous

1. Pest control – bugs; infections; rodents; birds; angry bees
2. How to harvest; winter foods grow slower; wash produce
3. Saving seeds
4. Cooking classes; knowing how to use unusual foods.