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### How to Decide What to Grow in Your Vegetable Garden

Posted on May 18, 2010 5:21:05 PM | By [SimplyStatedAdmin](#)

*Each Tuesday in May we will have a guest post from Jessie Atchison, brand manager for [Burpee Home Gardens](#), about how to start your own vegetable garden.*

If you've ever flipped through a seed catalog or shopped garden center benches filled with potted plants, you've found that there are several varieties of herbs and vegetables (especially tomatoes). Which ones should you choose for your garden? The answer lies in asking yourself a few questions before you dig in:



**How much space do you have for a mature plant?** Certain varieties climb on vines while others require staking or caging. Still other veggies need horizontal space and spread out far and wide. For your sunny plot of ground or patio container, pay attention to the growth habit of your choices to maintain healthy vegetable growth.

**How do you want to use the harvest?** If you want bountiful salads then it's best to focus on lettuces and other veggies. If you're more focused on making sauces or soups, an herb garden will serve you well. Don't forget to plant extra if you plan to can or dry some of your produce. How you plan to use your produce will determine your variety choice.

**When can you collect your vegetables from the garden?** Time management should be taken into account. Some vegetables need consistent picking to increase production. Others are harvested once at the end of its season.

**Which varieties are considered the hardiest, most flavorful and prolific?** Gardeners quit after one year often cite "lack of success" as the reason. Choosing vegetable varieties that are easy to grow can help you ease into gardening and get you ready for something more ambitious the following year. Planting tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, beans, and lettuces can help you grow in confidence and expand to other varieties.

Your local garden center is always a wealth of information about which vegetable and herb varieties will perform well in your region. And don't forget to connect with neighbors, friends and family for their past successes, tips and tricks.

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