

HOW TO MAKE A HOME VEGETABLE GARDEN

It takes a lot of steps to make a vegetable garden starting from an uncultivated land.

First you must analyze the sun exposition, the climate and the ground. After that, you have to evaluate how to prepare the land before seeding, type of seeds you want to cultivate and the size of the area.

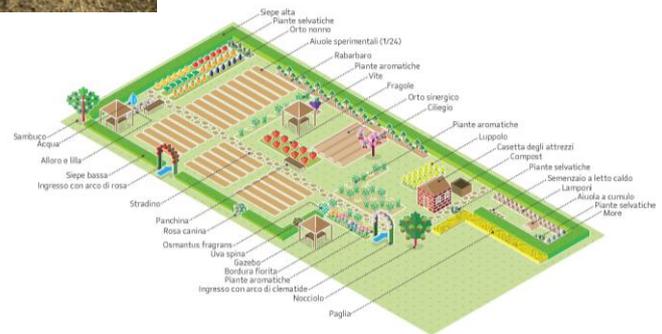
It is better to start a vegetable garden which can grow over time than to stop half the battle.



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STEPS TO MAKE A VEGETABLE GARDEN:

- 1) **CHOOSE AN AREA:** It should be easily within reach and well exposed to sun. A site can be shared with friends or relatives. In our towns you can find some urban vegetable gardens, shared vegetable gardens or social vegetable gardens. It's also possible to create a vegetable garden in a terrace.



- 2) **DRAW A PLAN:** draw a project on scale, locate the borders and the paths which should be larger than 50 cm and divide the space into lots.
- 3) **CARRING OUT THE PROJECT:** when you have finished to draw the project, you can transfer measurements on the terrain. You will need a yardstick, a wood picket and a rope. Stones and weeds must be removed. Then, you must delimitate the perimeter, after that the paths and finally the internal lots.



- 4) **SOIL ANALYSIS:** in a good vegetable garden the soil should contain a suitable concentration of sand and clay. A gardener can make this analysis.

- 5) **PREPARING SOIL FOR SEEDING:** first, use a spade, break and turn the clods to a depth of at least of 25-30 cm; then remove stones, roots and other debris; use a hoe or a shovel to reduce a clump into small pieces; in the end put on the soil some humus or manure and mix with a shovel to a depth of 15cm.
- 6) **FERTILIZE THE SOIL:** put some plant nutrients on the soil, such as nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium and iron. It would be better to use an organic fertilizer like manure, compost or something like that. It's also possible to use a chemical fertilizer.



- 7) SEEDING AND TRANSPLANTATION: to seed in a right place, it's important to use the map that you have drawn before. It's better to use more seeds than leaving some uncultivated area, otherwise weeds will grow. To simplify the seeding, it's possible to mix seeds with fertile soil and sand. As an alternative it's possible to transplant the plants already grown or to buy them in a garden center.



- 8) MULCHING: to protect the soil around the cultivation use suitable materials; in this way you can maintain the humidity of soil, reduce the growing of weeds and to stop the wash out.

9) CULTIVATION PRACTISES AND HARVESTING:

- Irrigation: when possible it's better to use a drip method.
- Elimination of weeds: Don't use herbicides. It's possible to use mulch or to pull the weeds with your hands or with a hoe.
- Fight against pests: don't use chemical pesticides. It's possible to protect plants by using the technique of "intercropping".
- Harvesting: it's the end of this hard work and the most rewarding moment.

