



Planning Your Fall and Winter Garden

Living on the North Olympic Peninsula provides a unique opportunity to grow vegetables year-round. Since our winters are normally mild, many crops can be grown and harvested in these cooler months.

Begin planning for your fall and winter vegetable garden during the warmer months.

- Select the warmest, wind-free location that you can find in your garden. Often this is a south facing plot. Good soil drainage and accessibility for winter harvest also are important considerations.
- Amend the soil with compost to optimize drainage and restore nutrients that may have been depleted by summer crops.
- Select crops and varieties that are suited for shorter days and colder temperatures. Leafy green vegetables, root crops, and cole crops are well-suited for winter gardening.

- Plant late enough so that crops will not mature too early during the warm summer and fall, but early enough so that they are well-established by the first frost. Most winter crops are planted from mid-July through August in local gardens.

The information in this brochure was adapted from WSU Publication PNW 548 "Fall and Winter Vegetable Gardening in the Pacific Northwest."

WSU Clallam County Master Gardener Program

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WSU EXTENSION
MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

Fall and Winter Vegetable Gardening



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Protecting Your Vegetable Garden

Protection from rain can extend the life of a winter garden dramatically. Heavy and prolonged rains can saturate the soil, encourage slugs, and create an ideal environment for leaf diseases. By covering your winter crops with a cold frame or row cover, you can avoid many of these problems and extend the growing season. The following structures protect plants from frost, heavy rain, and cold winds.

Cold Frames

Cold frames are inexpensive structures for growing cool-weather crops. Cold frames rely on the sun as their sole source of heat. Heat is collected when the sun's rays penetrate clear plastic, glass, or fiberglass that cover a frame.

Frames can be built from many materials; wood and cinder block are most common. The size of your frame should depend on the amount of available space and desired crop. Include a way to ventilate the cold frame when temperatures rise above 45°.

Row Covers

A simple cover of plastic or fabric can be installed over garden beds to trap the sun's heat and warm your plants during the cooler winter months.

A framework of arched wire or PVC piping needs to first be installed over your beds. A cover of plastic or fabric needs to be securely attached to this framework. Plastic coverings come in varying thicknesses. Spun polyester, such as Reemay and Agribon, is also a popular covering with various thicknesses.

Crop	Seeding Month	Month to Harvest	Varieties Recommended for the North Olympic Peninsula
Arugula	Aug – Sept	Oct – Feb	Dragon's Tongue, Roquette, Speedy, Sylvestra
Beets	June—early Aug	Aug – Nov	Chioggia, Detroit Red, Golden, Touchstone Gold
Broccoli	Aug	Nov – May	Purple Sprouting, Rudolph, Thompson
Cabbage (Fall) Cabbage (Overwinter)	June/July July/Aug	Oct-Dec Jan-Mar	Green Mariner, Golden Acre, January King, Tundra
Carrots	August	March – June	Danvers Half Long, Eskimo, Merida
Cauliflower	August	Feb – April	Amazing, Olympic
Chard	Aug – Sept	Nov – Jan	Bali, Bright Lights, Golden, Perpetual
Greens, Asian and Mustard	July – Sept	Oct – Dec, if covered	Bok Choi, Ching-Chiang, Komatsuna, Mizuna, Pak Choi, Tah Tsai
Greens (Spring)	Aug – Sept	All winter, if covered	Mild Mesclun Blend, Provencal Winter Mix, Yukon Winter Lettuce Mix, Micro Greens
Kale	July – Aug	Oct – May	Curly Scots, Maribor, Nero Di Toscana, Red Russian, Redbor, Siberian, Winterbor
Lettuce (Fall)	July – Sept	All winter, if covered	Continuity, Merlot, Oak Leaf, Rouge D'Hiver, Winter Density,
Lettuce (Winter)	Sept	Dec – May, if covered	Continuity, Merlot, North Pole, Little Gem, Winter Density, Winterwunder,
Onion (green bunching)	Aug	May – July	Red Guardsman, White Bunching
Parsnips	Mid-June—July	Aug – Dec	Gladiator, Javelin
Radish	Aug – Sept	Nov – Feb	Daikon, Dragon, Runder Schwarzer Winter, Winter Solstice
Rutabaga	July	Nov – Feb	Joan, Magres
Spinach	Aug – Sept	Oct – Feb	Bloomsdale Savoy, Giant Winter, Olympia, Perseus
Turnip	May - July	Aug – Dec.	Hakurei, Purple Top White Globe, Tokyo Cross