

Planning a vegetable garden in Buckeye, Arizona

Buckeye 2nd Ward Elders Quorum

1. Decide if you are willing to take on this commitment of a garden. It's work.
 - a. Preferably this will be a family affair and you can get every member of your family involved so this does not take you away from your family time, but adds value to family time.
 - b. If you have animals, you will need to make some adjustments to your current use of your yard.
2. Plan your garden
 - a. When deciding a location, consider sun exposure and wind exposure.
 - b. In ground or raised bed garden
 - c. What will you grow and where will it be exactly in your garden (draw it out)
 - d. Where to buy your seeds and transplants.
 - e. When do you need to sow seeds or transplant?
 - f. Water supply and application (automatic systems are good, but still require attention to detail. A manual watering system can be used, but requires more diligence by the gardener)
3. Build your garden
 - a. Soil type and testing
 - b. Raised bed: build your walls at least 8 inches high, fill with a good soil mix.
 - c. In-ground: Remove existing plants and weeds and till the ground to 12 inches.
 - d. Build your irrigation system (This is one of the most important parts of your garden)
 - e. Start seeds in seed starting trays, other small containers, or directly in the garden area.
 - f. Transplant starter plants into the garden.
4. Irrigation implementation
 - a. Different parts of your garden may have different irrigation requirements (seeds, transplants, sun exposure, top mulch, etc.)
 - b. Set watering schedule based on the weather, your plants water requirements, your soil type, your daily inspections of your babies, etc
5. Dealing with Pests (both weeds and insects, animals, etc.)
6. Dealing with plant diseases
7. Harvesting

References

- <http://extension.arizona.edu/sites/extension.arizona.edu/files/pubs/az1435.pdf>
- <http://cals.arizona.edu/pubs/garden/mg/vegetable/>
- <http://extension.arizona.edu/sites/extension.arizona.edu/files/pubs/az1005.pdf>
- <http://www.phxgardening.com/grow-vegetables.html>
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- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nZtbZXJ8Fds>