

**MultiFaith GROWS**  
**Basic Vegetable Garden Planting Tips**

**1. Prepare the soil in late fall and early spring**

- i. Remove all weeds
- ii. Loosen up the soil and add amendments of choice

**2. Direct sow seeds**

- i. Loosen top  $\frac{3}{4}$ " of soil making a very shallow trench
- ii. Set  $\frac{1}{4}$ " to  $\frac{1}{2}$ " of the soil aside (depending on planting depth recommended on the seed packet)
- iii. Wet down the area
- iv. Press the seeds into the moistened soil and cover with the soil
- v. Wet area down again
- vi. Keep the soil moist at all time for the moist successful germination
- vii. Keep seedlings moist
- viii. Follow seed packet directions for thinning seedlings

**3. Planting Plants**

- i. Inspect all plants for mold, mildew, root and stem rot and bugs
  - a. It's usually better to discard the infected or infested plants to avoid introducing the disease (which can live for years in the soil) or insects into your garden
- ii. Dig slightly bigger holes than the cell pack and place plant into hole
  - a. Make sure the plant stem is ground level
  - b. Mud the hole --alternate water and soil to top of hole
  - c. Remove any blossoms on small plants --deferring vegetables now when the plant is small will ensure a faster growing, healthier plant that will produce more and bigger blossoms/vegetables later.
  - d. Fertilizer should be used carefully and sparingly around young, tender plants to avoid root and leaf burning

**4. Maintenance**

- i. Stake and cage your upright plants
  - a. Use a stake and cage that will support the mature height and width of your plant
  - b. Mark your plants with colorful stretchy ties so the plants can be identified before weed pulling begins
- ii. Water deeply once or twice a week and more if there are dry, hot conditions--deeper watering encourages deeper rooting.
  - a. Tomatoes will develop blossom end rot if the plants suffer dryness during bud set
- iii. Weed weekly --smaller weeds pull quickly and easily because the root system is small
  - a. Tiny weedlings can be cut off at soil level with a hoe