Gardening In Small Spaces:  
*Plant selection and crop scheduling*

Mulches And Other Tools:  
*How to spend more time gardening … and less time weeding*

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Plant Selection in Small Spaces

• Planning is the most important step
  – What vegetables are expansive to purchase
  – What vegetables does your family enjoy

• Make a list
  – Determine if the vegetable can be grown

• Eliminate vegetables that take a lot of space
  – Pumpkins, squash, sweet corn

• Eliminate vegetables that are not expensive to purchase
  – Winter onions, winter squash, potatoes
Plant Selection in Small Spaces

• Avoid plants that grow high
  – Exception, use of trellis with cucumber vines or pole beans
  – Tomato, prune or grow determinate varieties

• Plant late maturing vegetables out of arms reach

• Plant early maturing crops on borders
Flowers are more than color

• Plant edible flowers to eat
  – Viola, nasturtium, borage, calendula, Pansy

• Use flowers from herbs to eat
  – Dill, basil, cilantro, chives

• Flowers in the vegetable garden provide food (pollen, nectar) for beneficial natural predators

• As the diversity of plants increase in the garden so do the number of species of beneficial natural enemies- natural pest control
## Crop Scheduling

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vegetable</th>
<th>Early Season</th>
<th>Mid Season</th>
<th>Late Season</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basil</td>
<td></td>
<td>June 1 (plants)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bean Green</td>
<td></td>
<td>June 1 (seed)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beet</td>
<td>May 1 (seed)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrot</td>
<td>May 1 (seed)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chard</td>
<td>May 1 (seed)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cilantro</td>
<td>May 1 (seed)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cucumber</td>
<td></td>
<td>June 1 (seed)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lettuce</td>
<td>May 1 (seed)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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<th>Mid Season</th>
<th>Late Season</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Onion</td>
<td>May 1 (seed)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pea</td>
<td>May 1 (seed)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pepper</td>
<td></td>
<td>June 1 (plants)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radish</td>
<td>May 1 (seed)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spinach</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomato</td>
<td></td>
<td>June 1 (plants)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Government Center Garden Layout

Scale
1 square represents 6 x 6 inches
Mulches

• When to apply mulches
  – Immediately after planting

• What type of mulch to use (organic)
  – Grass clippings
  – Marsh hay
  – Wheat/Oat straw

• Mulches to avoid
  – Un-composted manure
  – Hay or straw that contains weeds
Examples of Mulches
What do mulches do?

- Reduce weed seed germination
- Reduce soil erosion
- Rainfall interception (keeps vegetables clean)
- Reduces water evaporation from soil
- Keeps soil cooler temperature
- Increases organic matter content of soil when incorporated
- Allows access to garden during wet weather
Things to Consider About Mulches

• Clay soils
  – Avoid organic mulches-may keep soil too moist
  – Use inorganic mulches- black plastic

• Rodent Problems
  – Organic mulches may increase rodent problem

• Pest problems
  – Organic mulches sometimes increase pest problems-slugs, earwigs etc.