

Vegetables As Bedding Plants

Vegetables can be grown as part of your landscape. I'm going to talk about the veggies that can be planted this month:

Cherry Tomatoes – Can be grown all summer. Need full sun. Varieties that can be grown as a bush or hanging basket in outside yard or patio are Micro Tom, Patio, Sweet 100.

Bush beans can be planted anywhere. There are climbing varieties also, make sure you purchase the seeds for the type you want.

Cucumbers can be planted near a fence or trellis for support, however, there are bush cucumbers also. If you have a 4 X 8 lattice for privacy somewhere in your yard would be perfect for climbing cucumbers.

Eggplant needs about 3 feet of height. Need to be staked.

New Zealand spinach – Grows 1-2 feet high, 2-3 feet across.

Okra – susceptible to nematodes so don't plant near other veggies.

Peppers – so many sweet varieties, bell, cubanelle, banana most are under 3 feet. Don't forget the hots, Jalapeno and Habenero for those with iron stomachs.

Pumpkins – Calabaza Pumpkins can be planted now. They require LOTS of room. If you have some wide yard that you don't want to mow, you might want to try this. I have grown it and it is like an acorn squash. You can purchase them at Publix. They are susceptible to powdery mildew but there are fungicides that you can spray on them.

Sweet Potatoes – also take up much of your yard, if you let it. I grew them under some bushes for 3 months at a condo we were renting and I got about 15 potatoes from them!!! I pulled them out before we were asked to pull them out!!!!

Southern Peas – Pigeon Peas, Black Eyed Peas

Peanuts – plant raw peanuts (out of the shell not roasted) from supermarket

Pineapples – I'm including a fruit in this topic because they are very easy to grow in the landscape, no bugs seem to attack them just raccoons if they get to the fruit before you do!!! Twist off top of pineapple from the store and stick it in the ground of good soil or a small pot, which you can transplant to a larger one later on.

Watermelon – need the same room as sweet potatoes/calabazza pumpkins. I've never grown watermelon but will try sometime.

Herbs can be put all around trees or shrubs. Place near the kitchen door, so you have easy access. This month plant basil, coriander, chives, dill, fennel, lemon balm, Mexican tarragon, mint, rosemary, thyme, watercress.

Soil – if you have sandy soil, add peat moss or compost to hold moisture. Mulching is good, just not near the stems. Or you can put in some potting soil in your area where you'll plant your vegetables.

Fertilizer – You must feed your vegetables. Use chemical fertilizers or organic fertilizers. You can use fish emulsion, or organic fertilizers for those who prefer to go organic. Veggies must be fed about 1/month or every watering with reduced concentration liquid fertilizers.