



Gardening 101

SDSU Extension Quick Links

These are SDSU Extension articles organized into a loosely chronological handbook based on what gardeners might see during a particular time of year. More information can be found on the SDSU Extension website here: extension.sdstate.edu



This may look like a lot of information to take in all at once, but don't be daunted! Most of these articles are short but brimming with useful knowledge.

You can type or copy and paste the URL into a web browser, or use your phone camera on the QR code to open the article.



**Use your phone's camera
to open QR codes.**

**Or select, copy or type
link into a web browser**

Link: extension.sdstate.edu

Start small and read 1-2 articles at a time. Take notes in a notebook used for just gardening information. Refer to it throughout the season.



General Gardening Resources

**SOUTH DAKOTA STATE
UNIVERSITY EXTENSION**

If you are new to gardening, start at the section titled “I Want to Garden, But Don’t Know Where to Start” (Page 4).

How to grow vegetables in South Dakota

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/vegetable-gardening-south-dakota>



Recommended resources:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/home-horticulture-resources-gardeners>

Topics:

- Plant science
- Plant diseases
- Fruit/vegetable gardening
- Insects
- Weed identification and control
- Landscape design

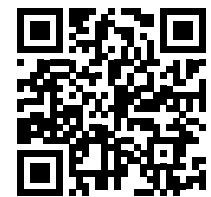


All SDSU Extension gardening articles organized by topic:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/garden-yard>

Topics:

- Fruit
- Vegetables
- Flowers & ornamental
- Lawns
- Trees & shrubs
- Problems & solutions
- Master Gardener Volunteer Program
- Community gardens
- Garden Hour



SDSU Extension Master Gardener Volunteers:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/garden-yard/master-gardener-volunteer-program>



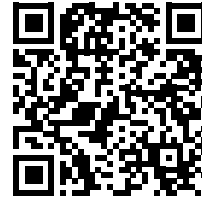
Garden:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/category/garden>



Soil:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/tags/garden-soil>



I Need Help!

“How to Grow It” series:

Guides on how to grow specific fruits and vegetables

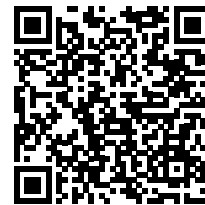
Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/garden-yard/vegetables>



SDSU Extension Garden Hotline:

Ask questions and submit photos through email or by phone

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/garden-yard/problems-and-solutions>



SDSU Extension website:

Type 1-2 keywords into the search field related to your problem like “vegetable gardening” or “yard pests”:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/search>



Garden Hour:

Webinar collection on YouTube

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/garden-hour>



Garden/yard issues:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/tags/garden-yard-issues>



Pests:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/how-do-i-keep-insects-destroying-my-garden-produce>



I Want to Garden, but I Don't Know Where to Start

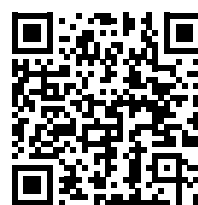
Why should I garden?:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/gardening-helps-promote-good-nutrition-and-healthy-relationship-food>



Quick start guide to growing:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/growing-your-own-food>



Do you want to plant in the ground, or in raised garden beds?

Testing your soil can determine which option is best for your garden.

Find a soil testing lab near you:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/soil-testing-labs>



Interpret soil test results:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/interpreting-soil-tests-gardening>



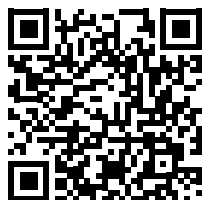
SEASONAL GUIDES - Spring

Early spring is the best time to start seedlings indoors. South Dakota has a short growing season, so make the most of it by using grow lights and shelves to give your plants a head start. Check the labels on your seed packets for more detailed information.

If the weather is good, you can start clearing out your garden beds or building raised beds. If planting directly into the ground, you can test garden soil by sending a sample to a lab for a fee.

Some things you can do to prepare your garden in the spring:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/spring-garden-maintenance>



- Prepare tools
- Clean up beds
- Divide perennials (plants that come back year after year)
- Care for your soil
- Prevent weeds

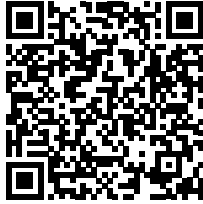
A garden requires a lot of attention and care each week. Weekly tasks in the spring include:

- Watering the garden
- Pulling weeds
- Removing trash or debris
- Checking for pests
- Maintaining tools and other supplies

Planning Your Garden

Utilize your garden space more efficiently:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/tips-make-more-efficient-use-your-garden-space>



Plan a garden using a square foot layout:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/square-foot-garden-sample-planting-layout>



Grow vegetables in containers:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/growing-vegetables-tubs>



Container gardening in the Great Plains:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/gardening-raised-bed-and-containers-northern-great-plains>



Container gardening:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/container-gardens-and-csas>



Keyhole gardening:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/keyhole-gardens>



Gardening modifications:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/gardening-modifications-people-limitations>



Learn how to start your own seedlings:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/basics-seed-starting-flowers-and-vegetables>



Learn how to control weeds:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/spring-annual-weeds>



Weed control in no-till gardens:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/weed-control-no-till-gardens>



Mulch, Watering and Composting

Mulch:

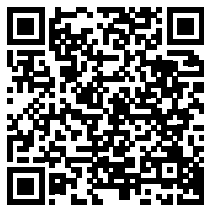
Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/organic-garden-mulches- conserve-moisture-and-prevent-weeds>



Mulch is a layer of material laid on top of soil. Mulch can be wood chips, straw/hay, pine needles, leaves or grass clippings. It can help with preventing weeds, keeping moisture in soil, and improving soil health.

Water:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/options-watering-home-gardens-and-landscape-plantings>



Water is a key component of your garden. It is important that your plants receive the right amount of water – not too much or too little.

Compost:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/composting-basics>



Compost is a beneficial soil amendment created from the decomposition of food waste, chemical-free grass clippings and other yard waste. Compost reduces waste, adds nutrients and organic material to the soil, and improves soil structure and water retention ability.

Cold Weather

Cold weather:

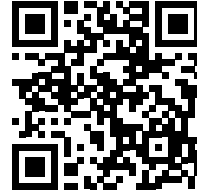
Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/harden-your-transplants-prior-planting-your-garden>



Cold Frames:

Cold frames are essentially boxes placed over young plants to protect them from cold weather, helping to extend the growing season.

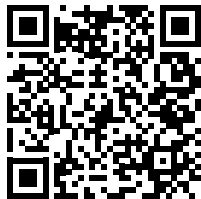
Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/cold-frames>



Getting Children Excited about Gardening

Family gardening:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/family-fun-gardening>



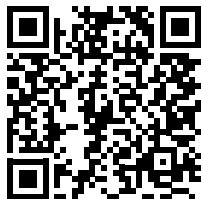
Get kids involved:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/family-fun-gardening>



Getting your garden growing:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/getting-garden-growing>



Grow Getters:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/grow-getters-garden-based-education-preschool-3rd-grades>

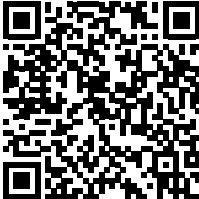


SEASONAL GUIDES - Summer

Maintain your garden by watering and weeding it. Ideally, deeply water the garden 2-3 times a week. Aim to get the equivalent of 1 inch of rainfall on garden soils each week. Note: Container gardens will probably require daily watering during hot, dry conditions.

When to plant warm-season vegetables:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/when-should-i-plant-my-warm-season-vegetables>



Learn about safely handling garden produce:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/garden-food-safety>



How to protect plants from excessive heat:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/protecting-plants-heat-stress>



How heat causes problems with gardens

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/heat-causes-problems-garden-produce>



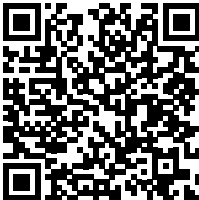
How to garden during a drought:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/vegetable-gardening-during-drought>



How to prevent hail damage in gardens:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/preventing-and-dealing-hail-damage-garden>



SEASONAL GUIDES - Fall

Harvest time! Start preparing for winter by...

Harvesting and storing root vegetables:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/harvesting-and-storing-root-vegetables>



Harvesting and storing pumpkins and winter squash:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/harvesting-and-storing-pumpkins-and-winter-squash>



Fall garden cleanup:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/fall-vegetable-garden-cleanup>



How to store leftover garden seeds:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/how-store-leftover-garden-seeds>



Save seeds from pumpkins:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/saving-seed-pumpkins-squash-cucumbers-melons-and-gourds>



SEASONAL GUIDES - Winter

You can plant seeds in winter, too.

Winter sowing:

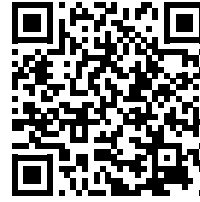
Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/winter-sowing-northern-great-plains>



How Do I Grow This...?

Master list of specific fruits/vegetables:

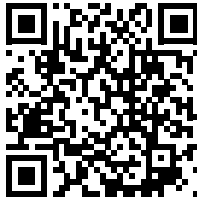
Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/garden-yard/vegetables>



Common types of vegetables in community gardens:

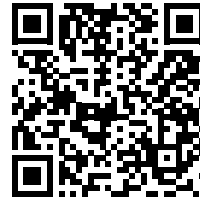
Tomato:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/tomato-how-grow-it>



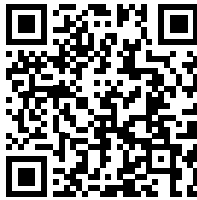
Peas:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/peas-how-grow-it>



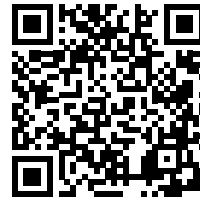
Peppers:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/peppers-how-grow-it>



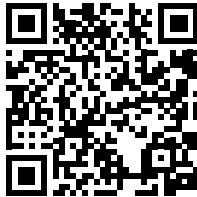
Green beans:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/green-beans-how-grow-it>



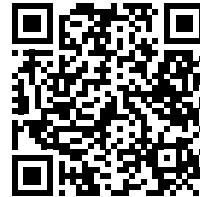
Cucumbers:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/cucumbers-how-grow-it>



Melons:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/melons-how-grow-it>



Pumpkins/squash/gourds:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/pumpkins-squashes-and-gourds-how-grow-it>



I Need Money (for a Pollinator Habitat)

Funding opportunities:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/funding-opportunities-small-scale-pollinator-habitats-guide-urban-and-home-garden-projects>

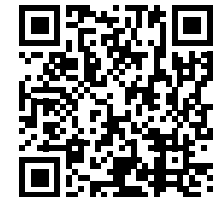


Conservation districts in South Dakota

A conservation district is a community-based organization that helps people take care of the land, water, and wildlife around them. Typically, one can purchase local trees or plants through them, and they may also offer large scale services like tree planting or mowing.

Find your district here:

Link: <https://www.sdconservation.org/conservation-districts>

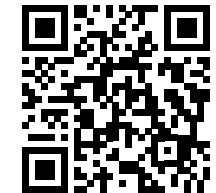


I Want to Grow Traditional Medicinal Herbs

SDSU Extension Native Plant Initiative: Plants native to South Dakota are grown on site at SDSU and are sold to the public in the summer.

Native Plant Initiative Facebook

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/SDStateNPI/>



Other community gardens have had success purchasing plants or seeds from online retailers and partnering with local organizations to source plants. See below for examples:

Site 1: Locally harvested white sage; chokecherry and blackcurrant trees from the Minnehaha Conservation District; wild strawberry, lead plant, white prairie clover, and others from the Native Plant Initiative

Site 2: Locally harvested white sage and yucca; sweetgrass from the Native Plant Initiative; echinacea purchased from a big box store

Help, I Can't Find the Answers I Need!

Scroll down to "Ask Extension" and use the form prompts to ask your garden-related questions

Ask Extension:

Link: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/garden-yard/problems-and-solutions>

