

3/11

## GOING TO NEED SOME TOOLS TO GET STARTED

**-wheel barrow**

**-good hose** that won't kink

**-watering wand** with on-off valve on it

**-watering can**-not too big as each gallon of water weighs 8 lbs-can get to be too heavy to carry around

**Compost soil thermometer**-a must have-longer than regular soil thermometers-need it to see what the soil temperature is before planting seeds or transplants in the garden. Also good to measure how hot your compost pile is.

**-quick connects** for your hose-to quickly release the hose from the spigot (important this time of year after watering.

**-hand trowel**-to dig holes for individual plants

**-2 rakes-** **hard rake** to move dirt around/remove rocks

**leaf rake** to remove lighter debris from soil

**-pruners**-by-pass pruner

**-lopper**-much bigger pruner for trees

**-garden fork**-tines really sturdy-not like pitchfork

**Stirrup hoe**-great for weeding-looks like the stirrup on a saddle-cuts weeds off pushing and pulling

**Shovel vs spade**-what's the difference? The biggest difference are found in the handle/shaft and the blade.

**-shovel**-bowl shape with pointed tip with long stage handle larger. best use digging, breaking up and turning soil

**spade**-flat with straight edge.shorter shaft (may have a D or T handle, best use: slicing through soils and roots, moving soil and loose material

**row cover**-a must have- has many uses-protection from cold, insects, birds and sometimes rabbits.

**walls of water**-another must have-use to put in tomatoes in the spring to protect from our cold nights-the manufacturer says good protection down to 11°F

Now all this sounds expensive BUT you can pick up many of these items at garage sales or Craigs list.

Do try to get a soil analysis-Colorado State University offers them.

**PLANT THESE COOL SEASON CROPS BY SEED IN MARCH** but Cover all new seedlings with row cover for protection from cold nites

**peas**-by St. Patricks Day

**beets**-mater in March

**cold hardy lettuce**-later in March

**mesclun mix**-what it is? a mix of lettuces that are cut early in the baby stage and more than once-called cut and come again

**kale**-great crop that won't bolt in summer. It is a biennial-lives approximately 2 years-that means it puts it's energy into leaf production the first year and to seed production the second year.

**asian greens**-pak choi, tatsoi, bok choi, mustards

**spinach-Carmel variety** very cold hardy- can sometimes survive winter

**arugula**-very cold hardy-try Wasabi variety from Johnnys seeds

**endive**-very cold hardy

**onions, leeks**-very cold hardy

**Don't plant carrots or chard yet-wait till April.** They're more temperature sensitive when germinating.

Now you ordered your seeds, you've started to prepare and amended your beds with compost or **composted** horse manure and you've read the package as to how to grow that particular vegetable-how deep to plant seed, how far to space the seeds apart, thinning the seedlings, distance between rows, etc. all this info is usually on the package. Plant COOL SEASON VEGGIES.

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