



## **Vegetable Gardening Resource Sheet**

**Reviewed by Susan Emhardt-Servidio, Senior Horticulturist- July 2025**

### **Steps to Effective Garden Management:**

- Get your soil tested before planting.
- Plow or turn the soil well in advance of planting. The garden should be well plowed and free of weeds, grass, etc., at least 30 days before planting.
- Rotate garden crops from year to year. This aids in reducing insect and disease problems
- Plants should always be purchased from reputable dealers and inspected at time of purchase for disease and insects.
- Inspect plants regularly from top to soil, including tops and undersides of leaves, to determine if there are any pests or diseases.
- Seek alternatives to chemical insecticides when possible.
- Harvest fruits and vegetables as soon as they are ripe. Allowing overripe fruit to remain on the plants often invites additional pest problems.
- Once a plant is no longer productive, destroy it, plow it under, or remove it from the garden. DO NOT just pull it up and leave it in the garden area.
- If you add finished vegetable plants a mulch bed or compost bin, make sure that the material does not harbor insects, disease or nematodes that will easily survive organic decomposition. They can cause future problems if that mulch/compost is used in the garden.

### **Additional Fact Sheet (FS) Resources- <https://go.rutgers.edu/rutgerspublications>**

- E310: Diagnosing and Managing Important Cucurbit Diseases in the Home Garden
- FS011: Blossom End Rot: Tomatoes, peppers, eggplant
- FS058: Mulches for Vegetable Gardens
- FS1123: Vegetable Insect Control Recommendations for Home Gardens
- FS1124: Vegetable Disease Recommendations in the Home Garden-
- FS129: Planning a Vegetable garden
- FS230 Aphids on Vegetables (2 pp.)
- FS358: Important Diseases of Tomatoes Grown in High Tunnels and Greenhouses in NJ
- FS450: Using Water Wisely in the Garden
- FS547: Diagnosing and Controlling Fungal Diseases of Tomato in the Home Garden
- FS626: Fertilizing the Home Vegetable garden
- FS678: Growing Tomatoes in the Home Garden
- FS797: Soil Testing for Home Lawns and Gardens
- FS988: Picking Vegetables in the Home Garden
- FS992: Growing Hops in the Backyard



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To help diagnosis insects or diseased plants, call the Helpline at 732-349-1245 or stop in the office at 1623 Whitesville Rd., Toms River Monday through Friday from 9am - 3pm.