



Victory Gardens: Americas Pandemic Garden & Tips on Creating Your Own

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COVID-19 response: Extension agents launch website to post tips on home-grown food

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**Victory 2020 Garden
Program started in
March 2020**

Join the Victory2020 Garden Movement!

Today, people garden for many reasons. It can be a great stress relief, a wonderful place for an outdoor classroom, provide fresh food, and is just fun. The **Victory2020 Garden Program** through the University of Florida/IFAS Extension Office in Columbia County will provide the same great information we normally provide, but through a more digital platform to individuals who may be staying home during this unprecedented time. The program encourages you to try a garden or



Free!

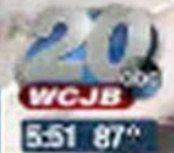
Enrollment continues

What's Growing On: Victory Gardens



YOUR LOCAL STATION

WHAT'S GROWING ON: VICTORY GARDENS

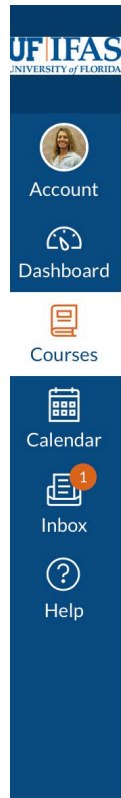


Similar to wartime Victory Gardens Americans are growing pandemic gardens, here's a few tips to get started










UF/IFAS extension office provides online resources, diagnoses



Canvas: Online Learning Modules



☰ Victory2020 > Pages > The Basics of Fertilizer (video)

- Home
- Modules
- Announcements
- Discussions
- Quizzes
- Assignments 
- Pages** 
- Files 
- Syllabus 
- Outcomes 
- Conferences 
- People 
- Collaborations 
- Grades 

View All Pages

The Basics of Fertilizer (video)

Join Mark, a UF/IFAS Marion County Small Farms Extension Agent to learn about understar to use it! Be sure to watch his video.

[Fertilizer Basics: Learn from Mark, UF/IFAS Extension Agent](#) 



◀ Previous

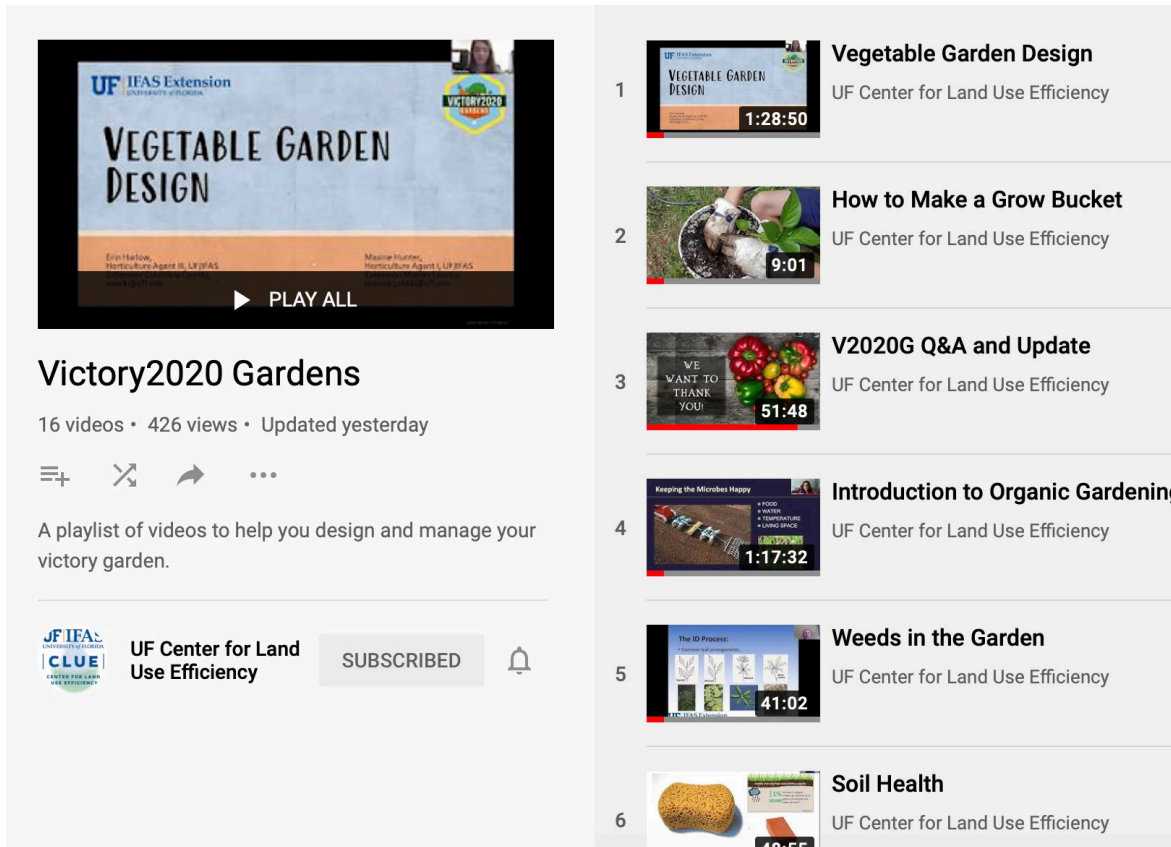
- **Eight online learning modules**
- **Self-paced**
 - **How to start a garden**
 - **Fertilizer**
 - **Pesticides**
 - **Soil Building**
 - **Harvesting**
 - **Preserving**
- **Kids modules**
 - **Activities**
 - **Games**

Victory 2020 Garden – Seeds Distributed



- **# of participants who were mailed 3 types of seeds (cucumber, corn, squash, or cowpea) – 1,650**
- **# of total seed packets mailed – 4,950**
- **Seed swap on Facebook group by sending SASE**
- **Seed swap event in future: Spring and fall**

Zoom webinars



The screenshot shows a YouTube playlist interface. At the top is a video player for 'VEGETABLE GARDEN DESIGN' with a 'PLAY ALL' button. Below the player, the playlist title 'Victory2020 Gardens' is displayed, along with '16 videos • 426 views • Updated yesterday'. A list of six videos is shown on the right side of the playlist:

1. **Vegetable Garden Design** (1:28:50) - UF Center for Land Use Efficiency
2. **How to Make a Grow Bucket** (9:01) - UF Center for Land Use Efficiency
3. **V2020G Q&A and Update** (51:48) - UF Center for Land Use Efficiency
4. **Introduction to Organic Gardening** (1:17:32) - UF Center for Land Use Efficiency
5. **Weeds in the Garden** (41:02) - UF Center for Land Use Efficiency
6. **Soil Health** (18:55) - UF Center for Land Use Efficiency

At the bottom of the screenshot, the channel name 'UF Center for Land Use Efficiency' is visible, along with a 'SUBSCRIBED' button and a notification bell icon.

- **Designing a Vegetable Garden**
- **How to Make a Grow Bucket**
- **Organic Gardening**
- **Pest Control**
- **Weeds in the Garden**
- **Soil Health**
- **Troubleshooting Diseases**
- **Seed Saving**
- **Irrigating your Garden**
- https://bit.ly/V2020G_Videos

<https://sites.google.com/view/v2020g/home-page>

Victory Gardeners Facebook Group



- **Private group for program participants**
- **Participants post photos**
- **Ask for advice**
 - **Pests**
 - **Diseases**
 - **Planting dates**
 - **Bed preparation**
- **Learn of Victory Garden activities**

Book Club

 **Florida Master Gardener Program** Admin · June 17

Hello book club! What has been your favorite thought from *Pollinator Friendly Gardening* so far? We love beneficial insects as an alternative to less pollinator-friendly options.

[Wendy](#) is excited about the book club meeting this week! We can't wait to discuss the book all together.



Wendy Wilber
Florida Statewide Master Gardener Coordinator

- **In conjunction with Florida Master Gardener Program**
- **Bi-weekly Zoom meetings**
- **Participants discuss topics**
- **Share stories**

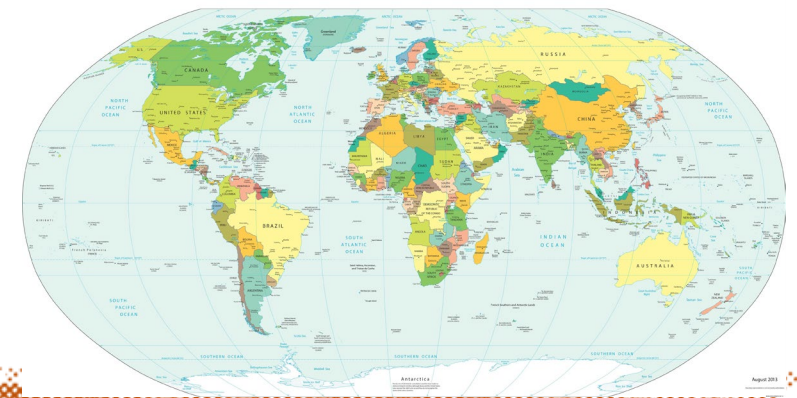
Books:

- **Foodscape Revolution**
- **Pollinator Friendly Gardening**
- **How to Grow More Vegetables**
- **NOW: Composting for a New Generation**

Victory 2020 Garden - Results



- **# of participants in V2020G – 2,600**
- **# of states/Districts or territories – 40/2**
- **# of countries – 8 (US, Costa Rica, Japan, Germany, Kenya, Liberia, Canada, Mexico, Philippines)**



Victory 2020 Garden - Participants



- **# of members on FB, Victory Gardeners - 1,446**
- **# of zoom workshops provided and participants - 30/957**
- **# of Canvas Students: 1,877**

Cultivating Community

Ok so I've pulled up the grass to make space for the garden. (It's full of grass roots still though). What's the best thing to do to get ready to plant? Going to plant tomatoes, peppers, sweet potatoes, tatsoi and (in the fall) cucumbers. And maybe some garlic. I have not had the soil tested, that's in progress.



- **Victory Gardeners Facebook group provides a platform for members to connect with each other**
- **Share successes and failures**

Successes

First picked Everglade tomatoes 😊



- **First garden ever**
- **First tomatoes ever**
- **Starting a compost pile**
- **Saving seed**
- **Growing plants from seed**
- **Great job!**
- **Record the harvest**
 - **Number of fruits**
 - **Weight**

Failures

Our garden didn't do very well - we didn't plant it until later in the season, so it probably got too hot (we are near Orlando). I didn't have high expectations - but it seems to have completely failed. It got overrun with ants and bugs 🐜 - our mini watermelons and cucumbers were doing amazing and were completely eaten up by bugs.

Our mini pumpkins started to grow and then were eaten by bugs, same with squash and zucchini.

The jalapeño plants seemed to be the only thing th... [See More](#)



- **Vegetables are hard to grow!**
- **Many varieties are not suitable for FL**
- **Insect and disease pressure high**
- **Sandy soil lacks nutrients**
- **Animal damage**

UPDATE



- **Program continues in 2021!**
- **Upcoming workshops**
 - **March 31 – Prepping Last Year's Garden Bed**
- **Seed swaps**
- **Private Facebook group**
- **YouTube Page and website**
- **Right now people are starting transplants and preparing garden beds**

VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS

March 31 - Troubleshooting Spring Garden Problems

April 7 - Gardening for Kids

April 14 - Herbs for Central Florida

April 21 - Microgreens and Sprouts for Home gardeners

April 28 - Seed Saving Pro Tips and Tricks

May 5 - Summertime Gardens: solarizing and composting

11 am-12 pm

Registration coming soon!

UF IFAS EXTENSION PRESENTS:

EAT WHAT YOU GROW

A webinar about how to cook and preserve what you grow in your garden and what is in season right now. 11 am to noon. No charge.

REGISTER HERE:
[TINYURL.COM/WKRG9ZST](https://tinyurl.com/wkrg9zst)

-  March 23 - Strawberries
-  April 27 - Peppers
-  May 25 - Watermelon
-  June 29 - Tomatoes
-  July 27 - Sweet Corn
-  August 31 - Peanuts

FOOD PRESERVATION CLASSES



4-H ACTIVITIES

Marion County Seminole Gardens

- 695 people participating
- 22 families

Youth record books

Youth Book Club



10 tips on how to start a garden



1. Do research on what to plant when

- **Vegetable Gardening Guide**
- **Edibles to Plant by Month**
- **Google “UF IFAS (topic)”**
- **“Florida Fresh” veggie app**

Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide¹

Sydney Park Brown, Danielle Treadwell, J. M. Stephens, and Susan Webb²

Vegetable gardening offers fresh air, sunshine, exercise, enjoyment, mental therapy, nutritious fresh vegetables, and economic savings, as well as many other benefits (Figure 1). Vegetables can be grown year-round in Florida if attention is paid to the appropriate planting dates (Table 1). Planting dates and other vegetable gardening information are also available as a free mobile app called ‘Florida Fresh.’ Access an app provider for your mobile phone or download it from <http://m.ifas.ufl.edu>.

While this guide provides recommendations primarily for traditional home gardens, the information may be useful in other situations, such as community gardens, market gardens, and unconventional approaches like container and raised bed gardens (see EDIS publication ENH1211 *Gardening in Raised Beds* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep472>)).

Steps in Gardening Site

For convenience, locate the garden near the house on a well-drained site close to a source of water and in a location that receives at least six hours of direct sunlight daily. With proper care, vegetables may also be included in the landscape among ornamental plants. Coastal sites are also suitable. Where possible, rotate the garden from place to place to help control soil diseases and other pests.

Plan

Before planting, draw a garden plan that includes the name, location, and planting date(s) of the vegetables you want to



EDIBLES TO PLANT IN
March

	North	Central	South
Easily Survives Transplanting	Arugula, Boniato, Eggplant, Kohlrabi, Peppers, Swiss Chard, Tomatillo, Tomatoes	Arugula, Boniato, Chinese Cabbage, Gingers, Kohlrabi, Peppers, Roselle, Sugarcane, Swiss Chard, Tropical Spinaches	Arugula, Boniato, Chinese Cabbage, Endive, Gingers, Roselle, Sugarcane, Swiss Chard, Tropical Spinaches
Transplant Carefully	Spinach, Sweet Potatoes	Amaranth, Calabaza, Celery, Long Squash, Luffa, Papaya, Passionfruit, Pigeon Pea, Pineapple, Seminole Pumpkin, Spinach, Sweet Potatoes, Yucca	Amaranth, Calabaza, Celery, Papaya, Passionfruit, Pineapple, Seminole Pumpkin, Sweet Potatoes, Yucca
Use Seeds	Beans (bush, lima, pole), Cantaloupes, Carrots, Corn, Cucumbers, Okra, Onions (bunching), Peanuts, Peas (English, southern), Radish, Squashes, Watermelon	Beans (bush, lima, pole), Cantaloupes, Carrots, Chayote, Corn, Cucumbers, Okra, Onions (bunching), Peas (southern), Radish, Squashes, Watermelon	Beans (bush, lima, pole), Cantaloupes, Carrots, Chayote, Corn, Okra, Onions (bunching), Peas (southern), Radish, Squashes, Watermelon

For more information, please visit GardeningSolutions.ifas.ufl.edu

UF IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



🔍 UF IFAS Vegetable gardening



2. Select and grow varieties suitable for Florida



- **Seminole pumpkin**
 - **Everglades tomato**
 - **Rattlesnake pole beans**
 - **Japanese eggplant**
-
- **Find resources on Google sites!**

<https://sites.google.com/view/v2020g/home-page>

3. Add lots of compost to the soil



Benefits of compost:

- **Increase organic matter**
- **Provides food for beneficial microorganisms**
- **Increases water holding capacity**
- **Releases nutrients slowly**
- **Helps bind nutrients to soil particles**
- **Buy “compost”, black cow, horse manure, garden soil**

4. Take time to prepare your bed



- **Mix compost in with existing soil**
- **Top off beds each planting season**
- **Fluff up soil and break up clumps**
- **Remove large roots**

5. Plant carefully



- **Use fresh seeds**
- **Choose quality plants**
- **Loosen the roots**
- **Add soil amendments**
- **Mulch**
- **Water in thoroughly**
- **Check after planting**

6. Nurture your garden

Check your plants for:

- **Water**
- **Trellis**
- **Nutrients**
- **Pests**
- **Disease**
- **Mulch**



7. Water efficiently

- **Check plants in the morning or evening**
- **Water before 10am or after 4pm**
- **Follow water restrictions for lawn and landscape (vegetable gardens are exempt)**



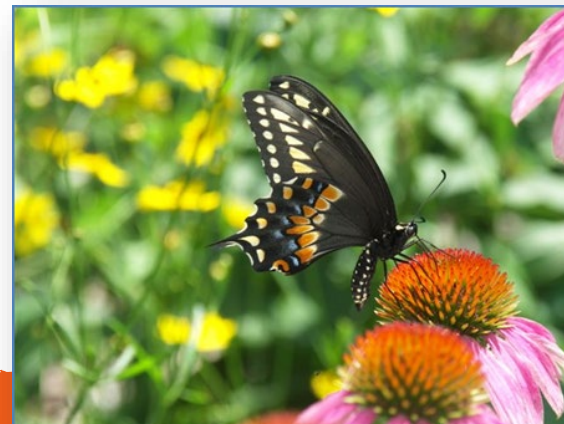
8. Fertilize appropriately

- **Vegetables and fruit trees need fertilizer containing micronutrients**
- **Use organic or slow release fertilizers**
- **Do not apply before heavy rain**
- **Follow the label instructions**



9. Use integrated pest management (IPM)

- **Learn to identify insects**
- **Plant flowers to attract good bugs**
- **Let beneficial insects eat pests**
- **Spray only if needed**
- **Follow the label instructions**
- **Use organic pest control first**



10. Close the Loop

- **Adopt sustainable practices**
- **Compost kitchen scraps, leaves and yard waste**
- **Save seeds to replant next season**



JOIN US!

- **Sign up!**
- **Join at <https://bit.ly/V2020G>**
- **Help answer vegetable gardening questions on our Facebook page**
- **Share your counties classes on our Facebook**
- **Participate in our seed swap**

VICTORY GARDEN TEAM MEMBERS

- **Erin Harlow, Columbia County**
- **Maxine Hunter, Marion County**
- **Emma Cannon, Marion County**
- **Mark Bailey, Marion County**
- **Tia Silvasy, Orange County**
- **Amanda Marek, Marion County**
- **Geralyn Sachs, 4-H Regional Agent**
- **LuAnn Duncan, Sumter County**
- **Heather Janney, Columbia County**
- **Haile Corbitt, Columbia County**
- **Wendy Wilber, State Master Gardener Coordinator**
- **Chandler Mulvaney, Marion County**





Thank you! Questions?

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