

Gardening 101

Now that the weather is warmer, it's a great time to get outside and get your hands dirty. Have you ever wanted to plant a garden but didn't know how? Here are a few tips to help you get started:

Know what to plant and when

According to the [National Gardening Association](#), now is the time to start planting certain fruits and vegetables including beans, brussels sprouts, corn, cucumbers, squash, pumpkins, and melons in New Jersey and areas in southeastern Pennsylvania.

For flowers, the [Garden Club of Morristown](#) suggests that a rule of thumb for planting is generally around Mother's Day.

Gardening in small spaces

Don't let a lack of outdoor space stop you! Container gardening is the trick to growing beautiful flowers and yummy fruits and veggies.

- If you have a patio or balcony that receives around five or six hours of sunlight a day, fill planters with mini or dwarf roses to enjoy their vibrant blooms all summer long.
- A container and a sunny windowsill is all you need to [grow fresh, sweet strawberries](#).
- [Vertical gardening](#) is a perfect way to cultivate fresh herbs like rosemary, thyme, chives, and basil in small outdoor spaces.
- Add color to your space with flowery, climbing container vines like jasmine or clematis. All you need is a pot with good drainage, a post for support, and regular feeding/watering.

Ideas for gardeners with less-than-green thumbs

Succulents are a great option for those who prefer low-maintenance plants. Because succulents store water in their leaves, stems, and roots, they require very little watering — but they do require plenty of sun. Succulent plants should receive two to four hours of direct sunlight each day. They should be watered only when the topsoil is completely dry, typically about every 10 days. The DIY Network provides some [great tips](#) on caring for succulents.

If you have space for an outdoor garden, try planting colorful perennials. Flowers like black-eyed susans and salvia can go for long stretches without water. They also don't mind hot temperatures and they return year after year.

Lastly, avoid weeding by creating a raised garden bed and fill it with low-water plants. Rosemary and lavender are great choices. Be sure to line the garden bed with landscape fabric before filling.

Happy gardening!

