



How to Plant a Salsa Garden!

Nothing can compete with the sight, taste, and smell of freshly made salsa, especially when you grow the ingredients yourself! There is just so much love put in it! Here's how to grow a favorite and delicious recipe in your garden. Pick a sunny spot and let's make it happen!

Materials:

- Garden bed or containers
- Planting soil and conditioner
- Garden tools
- Tomato cages
- Tomato plants, think "chunky" varieties like a Roma or Beefsteak
- Sweet and spicy pepper plants, like jalapeno or hotter varieties like serrano or cayenne
- Onions, red or scallions
- Cilantro starts
- Garlic or garlic chives
- *Optional:* tomatillos, corn, zucchini
- Marigolds, to attract pollinators
- Mulch
- Plant identification signs

Preparation:

1. Prepare a 6'x6' or larger garden bed, or the equivalent of that size if using containers. Create the garden space where it will be in direct sunlight for at least 6 hours a day.
2. Add the soil, if your garden bed is new or low, and add soil conditioner to the bed or containers, and mix it all together.
3. Set up a proper watering system or schedule to assure proper watering; a little amount daily during hot summer months, drip irrigation is best.

Directions:

1. Plant 3-4 tomato plants side by side about 2 feet apart. (Put tomatoes on the north side of your gardening space so they do not shade the rest of the garden.)
2. Plant 3-4 peppers in a straight line in front of the tomatoes, about 1 foot apart.
3. Plant 3-4 tomatillos in front of the pepper plants, about 2-3 feet apart.
4. Plant onions (seeds or starts) in front of the tomatillos, about 4-5 inches apart.
5. Plant a row of marigolds in front of the onions, about a foot apart.
6. Add mulch to cover soil and to keep the moisture in.
7. Add signage.
8. Check irrigation regularly as these crops are hearty and can tolerate sun well. Over watering can stress them out and stunt growth. In several weeks, you will be able to enjoy the fruits of your labor!