

Gardening Tips for Success in the Tetons

Early Season Soil Prep

If you can spend time doing this prep work, you will have greater success this season. Start by removing all weeds/grass. Using a fork instead of a shovel, loosen soil around weeds and gently pull them out, removing as much root matter as possible while minimizing disturbance to the soil structure. Aerate your plot with a fork by stabbing into soil every 12" and gently prying up without overturning the soil. Add 1-2" of compost and any organic fertilizer and stir into top 4". Soil should be slightly moist, not super wet when you work this. Let the plot sit for a week or more if possible, then plant.

Seed Purchase

- Twigs Nursery (Jackson)
- MD Nursery (Driggs)
- High Mowing Organic Seeds
<http://www.highmowingseeds.com>
- Johnny's Seeds
<http://www.johnnyseeds.com>
- Seed Saver's Exchange
<http://www.seedsavers.org>

Starts

- Twigs & Porcupine Nurseries
- Cosmic Apple Farms
<http://www.cosmicapple.com/plant-starts.html>
Saturday, May 23 & 30, 10-2, 397 E 8500 South, Victor ID
- Snowdrift Farms
<http://snowdriftfarm.org/what-we-grow/>
Thursday through Saturday, May 21, 22, and 23, Times: Thursday & Friday 1-5 p.m., and Saturday 10-2, Herbs and flower starts, 10435 S 1750 W, Victor ID
- Full Circle
<https://www.tetonfullcirclefarm.org/>
- Huidekoper Ranch, May 15 - Jun 15, Online Marketplace or People's Market
<https://www.facebook.com/huidekoperranch>

Crop Protection

The use of a floating row cover is recommended for our high-altitude gardening. After seeding or transplanting, cover crop to keep heat & moisture in, bugs out and soil moist after watering. Sold at Twigs (Jackson), Porcupine Nursery (Jackson), MD Nursery (Driggs) or online. A brief description:
<https://extension.umd.edu/hgic/topics/floating-row-cover>

Watering

It is generally best to water less often, but water more deeply. This encourages the roots to grow deep, producing a strong, healthy plant. Also, try to avoid watering during the middle of hot, summer days.

Soil / Compost

Adding compost, peat moss, or other organic soil amendments will improve your gardening success. This help aerate the soil (less compaction), buffer the pH in the soil, increase the population of micro- and macro-organisms, and **add** organic material on which **soil** organisms feed.

Glacier Gold - our favorite (available at Twigs, Porcupine Nursery, Big R)

Yard Care Organic Compost - the same company that makes Glacier Gold

Insecticide, Pesticide, and Fertilizer Recommendations

- Fish Emulsion or liquid seaweed is a great organic fertilizer. Mix with water according to directions on the container.
- Dry organic fertilizer (DownToEarth All Purpose Mix is a good one) - Ace Hardware, Twigs, MD Nursery.
- *Neem Oil* or Diatomaceous Earth can be sprayed on plants to control aphids.

Why we need to weed in our plots and around the garden

- Weeds block out sunlight and steal water
- Weeds crowd out your crops space
- Weeds hide your crop
- Weeds camouflage pests and disease
- Pulling weeds gives you a reason to be in your garden
- Weeds spread if not controlled
- Weeds may contain allelopathic compounds
- Certain weeds, such as lamb's quarter, thistle, and pigweed may contain allelopathic compounds. They can create a zone of infertility around their roots.
- Weeds are a problem that will only get worse
- It can be therapeutic to pull weeds....

<https://www.reformationacres.com/2017/06/why-pull-weeds.html>

Questions?

@ Blair -Contact David, david.watson344@gmail.com, 307-690-7654

@ May Park -Contact Mari Allan, mariallan.hanna@gmail.com, 307-699-9025

If you have any additional tips, please reach out to your garden coordinator for us to add to the list.