10 Tips for a Successful Vegetable Garden
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1. Seek Local Advice
   - Aggie website: http://aggie-horticulture.tamu
   - Central TX Horticulture: http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/travis/index.htm
   - Travis County Master Gardener Newsletter – The Compost Bin: www.tcmastergardeners.org
   - The Southern Kitchen Garden by Bill Adams & Tom LeRoy
   - Texas Fruit and Vegetable Gardening by Greg Grant
   - Vegetable Gardening in the Southwest by Trisha Shirey

2. Find a Good Location
   - most vegetables require 6-8 hours of sunlight
   - select a location that is close and convenient to the kitchen

3. Ensure Adequate Moisture and Drainage
   - locate garden near a source of water
   - build raised beds if soil quality is poor
   - use drip or soaker hoses, water 1-1 ½ inches per week

4. Build Healthy Soil
   - ideal pH is 6.5 - 7.0, strive for 8-12” of loose soil
   - perform a soil test, use fertilizer as indicated
   - incorporate compost or other organic matter

5. Use Mulch
   - protects soil, retains water, controls weeds, regulates soil temperature
   - use leaves, compost, dried grass clippings, alfalfa hay, finely shredded bark

6. Plant the Right Plant at the Right Time
   - use recommended varieties
   - cool season/warm season (first frost=late November, last freeze=early March)

7. Monitor for Problems
   - inspect your plants regularly

8. Control Pests and Disease
   - use disease-resistant varieties
   - practice proper sanitation and crop rotation
   - protect plants with floating row cover
   - get to know the beneficial insects

9. Harvest at the Right Time
   - pick at proper maturity for peak flavor and quality
   - harvest frequently to encourage blooms

10. Eat What You Grow
    - vegetables = vitamins, minerals, fiber and antioxidants