Issue 12 April 2018



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Upcoming Ventura County Events

Round UP
Rockin Country
Music
Extravaganza
April 14th
Rancho Simi Community

Amgen Tour Of California

Park

Men's Race May 13-19 Come support the men as they ride through Ventura County on May 14

California Strawberry Festival in Oxnard May 19-20

at Strawberry Meadows of College Park

Start Your Spring Vegetable Garden



Thinking about planting your own vegetable garden may bring to mind images of bountiful fresh and healthy produce. Advance planning will be the key to your successful garden. Considering which vegetables you like, how much space you have for them and how you'll meet each

crop's growing requirements before planting will help ensure you reap the full rewards at harvest.

Decide what will grow best - Cool season vegetables such as lettuce, peas and spinach will thrive early in the season. Tomatoes, peppers and melons will perform best when air and soil temperatures are much warmer.

Seeds or transplants - Vegetables can be grown from seeds or small starter plants called transplants. Seeds provide a wider selection of vegetables than what you can usually find as transplants, but will take more planning and time to establish. You may have to start some seeds, like tomatoes and peppers, indoors so they reach maturity by the end of the growing season.

Purchase transplants from a reputable source. Many retailers provide disease-resistant cultivars for various vegetables such as late blight-resistant tomatoes. Thoroughly inspect plants for signs of insects by checking under leaves and around stem tips. Avoid plants with leaves that are browning, spotted or wilting. A taller plant doesn't mean a healthier or sturdier plant.

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For Lease

Simi Valley

5755 Peace Pipe Ct 4 Bedroom, 4.5 Bath, Bonus Rm. and Office 4091 sq. ft. \$4150

Ventura

481 Pear Ave. #102 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath 1758 sq. ft. \$2950

For Sale



Newbury Park 3852 Hartung Ct.

3 Bedrooms, 3 Baths 1706 sq. ft. \$719,000 For more information

For more information regarding the above properties or if you are considering buying or selling a home, please contact:
Chris Marsh
805 630-4925



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(Spring Vegetable Garden...continued)

Maximize your space - Use every growing layer or tier within your garden. Root crops grow deep into the soil while tomatoes mature above ground. Lettuce is shallowly rooted and will grow as living mulch atop root crops such as beets and carrots. Plant carrots around developing tomato transplants or lettuce around developing root crops such as onions or radish. You can also increase your garden's yield by growing vining crops such as tomatoes, melons, pole beans and cucumbers on trellises or any vertical structure. Harvesting is also easier, as there's no stooping or hunching over!

Invite pollinators and other beneficial insects - Smart gardeners intersperse flowering herbs, annual flowers and native perennials among the vegetable garden. These plants add diversity to your garden; provide valuable food and shelter for native pollinators and beneficial insects that provide natural pest protection in your garden.

How do you know when it is time to harvest your crops? Here are a few indicators:

- Color. Many vegetables turn colors as they ripen—tomatoes and peppers are examples. Check the seed packet or look at the description for each crop listed here so that you know when to pick.
- **Sheen.** Vegetables ready for picking commonly have a shiny, healthy look. If the skin of the crop is dull, the peak time for harvest may have passed. (Watermelon is one exception.)
- Size. Most vegetables are ready for harvest when they reach a useable size. To check the tenderness and flavor of a vegetable bite into it. Don't delay the harvest simply to grow bigger crops—flavor will likely be lost.

Timing is everything when it comes to the home vegetable garden harvest. Once vegetables are picked they immediately begin to lose flavor, tenderness, and nutritional value. Harvest your crops as close to the time you plan to serve them

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