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## **Time to Plant Fall Vegetables**

Most folks have just really begun harvesting the spring bounty, but it is time to plant the fall crop. With the late spring frosts we had, as my daddy would say, “Things went into the ground late this year.” I know it’s hot out there, and everyone would much rather be harvesting and eating than planting. But, don’t forget how wonderful fresh produce would taste in the cool fall. We are blessed in the south, in that we can produce fresh vegetables almost 12 months out of the year. Without a doubt, this is how my parents fed all nine of us kids. Since I grew up in the poor south, instead of “The Good Old Days” those were “The Hard Old Days.” But some of my fondest memories are my dad riding on that old Farmall tractor and granddad plowing the mules.

Hurry up and plant the “King” of vegetables, the tomato, and his close kin the peppers, eggplants, and Irish potatoes. Pole and lima bean, also need to be planted soon. These crops need a long season to mature before frost. However, with a little frost protection we can produce tomatoes at least until Christmas. A southern Santa’s dream is a fresh home grown tomato sandwich with Dukes mayonnaise instead of cookies and milk.

You have a few weeks to plant snap beans, cucumbers, and summer squash. However, you may want to plant some now and more later, what we call consecutive plantings, to extend your harvest season. Remember, most of these warm season vegetables will have many insect and disease problems in the fall that may require some means of control. Most commercial growers apply a fungicide and an insecticide treatment on a weekly basis. To reduce your pesticide use, you may just have to let the pests have their share of the crop and learn to live with a few imperfections.

Also, get ready in just a couple of weeks it will be time to start planting all types of cool season vegetables. These will keep your plate full all winter long.

To learn more about gardening watch both of our Emmy Award winning T.V. programs Making-It-Grow (MIG) and More-Making-It-Grower (MoMIG). MIG can be seen at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday nights on regular ETV. However, at present MoMIG can only be seen on digital cable and some satellite systems on the SC Channel (channel 802 on Time Warner Cable).

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