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Plant Fall Vegetables Now

Fall is falling fast. The year is passing very quickly, so don't let your chance to plant some fall vegetables pass you by. We are blessed in the south to have two (really three spring, summer and fall) planting seasons each year. In other words, if you alternate crops you can get three plantings of vegetables on the same land. After the abundance of the summer harvest, many folks forget how wonderful fresh produce would taste in the fall. A little effort now will pay tasteful dividends about frost time.

Many warm season vegetables can still be planted and produce without the harvest season being shortened by frost. Most including snapbeans, cucumbers, and summer squash need to be planted now to make sure you get full production before frost. However, most of these warm season vegetables will have many insect and disease problems in the fall that will require some means of control. Most growers apply a fungicide and an insecticide on a weekly basis.

Also, now is the optimum time to plant most of the cool season vegetables. The list of cool season vegetables is almost endless, but includes arugula, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, kale, collards, carrots, onions, kohlrabi, lettuce, radishes, turnips, mustard, rutabagas, spinach, and etc. Contrary to popular belief in the South, collards are not the only cool season vegetable. These are what I call grown-up vegetables because most kids hate them. However, I learned to appreciate the nutritious value of these vegetables at an early age because I grew-up in a home where these vegetables were the only thing available to eat. If I didn't like something one of my eight brothers and sisters did, I would go without. Caterpillars are a problem on most of these vegetables. Applying a B.T. (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) product weekly will give excellent control. B.T. is a biological non-chemical insecticide sold under many different trade names including Dipel and Thuricide. Most good home and garden stores will know what you want if you ask for a B.T. Always follow all label directions.

To learn more about decorating, gardening and country living watch both of our Emmy Award winning T.V. programs, Making-It-Grow (MIG) and Down Home with Tony and Amanda. MIG can be seen at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday nights on regular ETV. However, at present Down Home can be seen on digital cable and some satellite systems on the SC Channel (channel 802 on Time Warner Cable). Also, you can view both programs on the web at www.mig.org.

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