

Let's Get Growing! A Beginner's Gardening Checklist

Plan Your Garden

- ☐ Decide what type of garden: vegetables, herbs, flowers, or mixed
- ☐ Choose your gardening space: raised bed, in-ground, or containers
- ☐ Check how much sunlight the space gets (full sun, partial, shade)
- ☐ Determine your hardiness zone (helps with choosing plants)

Get Your Tools

- ☐ Garden gloves
- ☐ Trowel and hand rake
- ☐ Watering can or hose with spray nozzle
- ☐ Pruners or garden scissors
- ☐ Soil thermometer (optional)

Prepare the Soil

- ☐ Clear weeds and debris from your space
- ☐ Loosen and aerate soil
- ☐ Add compost or organic matter to enrich the soil
- ☐ Test soil pH (optional)

Pick Your Plants

- ☐ Start with easy-to-grow plants: lettuce, radishes, peas, bush beans, cherry tomatoes, zucchini
- ☐ Try beginner herbs like basil, parsley, mint
- ☐ Add companion flowers like marigolds or nasturtiums
- ☐ Buy seeds or starter plants from a local nursery or online

Plant Your Garden

- ☐ Follow planting instructions (spacing, depth, timing)
- ☐ Water well after planting
- ☐ Label each plant with a marker or tag

Care and Maintenance

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- ☐ Water consistently (check daily in hot weather)
- ☐ Pull weeds regularly
- ☐ Check for pests (look under leaves)
- ☐ Add mulch to retain moisture and reduce weeds
- ☐ Fertilize if needed (once plants are established)

Track and Learn

- ☐ Keep a garden journal or take weekly photos
- ☐ Make note of what grows well and what doesn't
- ☐ Adjust and plan ahead for next season