

# Welcome to our Veggie Talk!



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# VEGGIE GARDENING 102

with Jen, Greenhouse Manager



**Where are you  
in your veggie  
journey?**

**1. SOIL IS THE FOUNDATION**

**2. CHOOSING VEGETABLES**

**3. PLANTING VEGETABLES**

**4. COMMON CONCERNS**

**5. CLOSING ADVICE**

# RAISED BEDS & CONTAINERS

A garden featuring several raised wooden beds of varying sizes. The beds are filled with lush green plants, including leafy greens and herbs. In the background, there is a wooden fence and a red building with a corrugated metal roof. The scene is set in a well-maintained outdoor space.

# IN-GROUND

A garden with rows of in-ground plants. The plants are arranged in neat rows and include various types of leafy greens and herbs. The garden is surrounded by trees and a white fence in the background. The scene is set in a well-maintained outdoor space.



SOIL

1



**“I HAVE  
BAD SOIL”**

# Common Challenges

1. Poor drainage / soil texture
2. Not enough nutrients
3. Too acidic

# Common Challenges #1

## Improve soil drainage with organic material

- Add Manure
- Add Compost
- Add Sand or Perlite

# Common Challenges #2

**Under performing vegetables**  
**Consider more nutrients**

Fertilize – granular & liquid, organic to help protect our environment



**Veggies are  
'Heavy Feeders' =  
Hungry Teenagers**





**E.B. Stone**  
**ORGANICS**  
**Tomato & Vegetable Food**

**E.B. Stone**  
**ORGANICS**  
**All-Purpose Plant Food**

**E.B. Stone**  
**ORGANICS**  
**Rose & Flower Food**

**E.B. Stone**  
**ORGANICS**  
**Rbody Azalea & Camellia Food**

**E.B. Stone**  
**ORGANICS**  
**Fruit Berry & Vine Food**

**E.B. Stone**  
**ORGANICS**  
**UltraBloom Plant Food**

**E.B. Stone**  
**ORGANICS**  
**Tree & Shrub Food**

**E.B. Stone**  
**ORGANICS**  
**Sure Start**

**E.B. Stone**  
**ORGANICS**  
**Bulb Food**

**E.B. Stone**  
**ORGANICS**  
**Bone Meal**

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**ORGANICS**  
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**E.B. Stone**  
**ORGANICS**  
**Sure Start**

# Common Challenges #3

## Correct soil pH with Lime

Optimum Range: 6.5 – 7.5

NW Average: 5 – 6



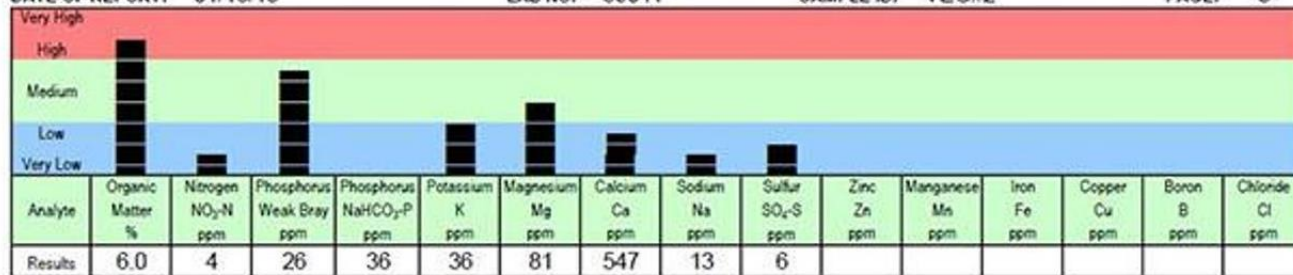
# Soil Testing



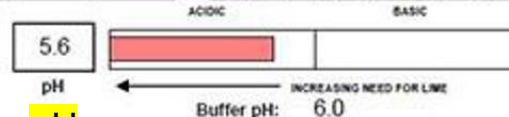
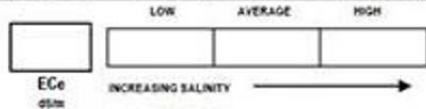
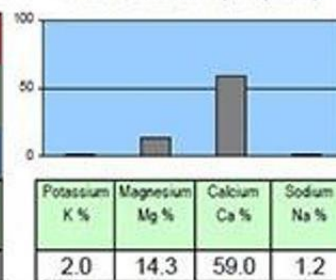
SEND TO: KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
1107 SW GRADY WAY STE 130  
RENTON, WA 98057

Results: High in Organic Matter, Low in Nitrogen, as well as P & K!

DATE OF REPORT: 01/16/15      LAB NO: 59041      SAMPLE ID: VEG#2      PAGE: 3



Percent Cation Saturation (computed)



NaHCO<sub>3</sub>-P unreliable at this soil pH

## Soil Fertility Guidelines

CROP: VEGETABLES

RATE: lb/1000 sq ft

NOTES:

Dolomite 100 score	Lime 100 score	Gypsum	Elemental Sulfur	Nitrogen N	Phosphate P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	Potash K <sub>2</sub> O	Magnesium Mg	Sulfur SO <sub>4</sub> -S	Zinc Zn	Manganese Mn	Iron Fe	Copper Cu	Boron B
210				3.1	2.0	6.0		0.6					

CO Recommended Changes



# CHOOSING VEGETABLES

2

# What type of gardener are you, *this season*?

## ERIKAS

*Never met a spreadsheet you didn't like.*

---

You like making plans and sticking to them. You make lists and

## JENS

*A planner w/ moments of chaos.*

---

You like making plans but also like throwing them out the window.

## MARLAS

*In it for the aesthetic... & the heirloom tomatoes.*

---

Plans maybe aren't your strong suit, but

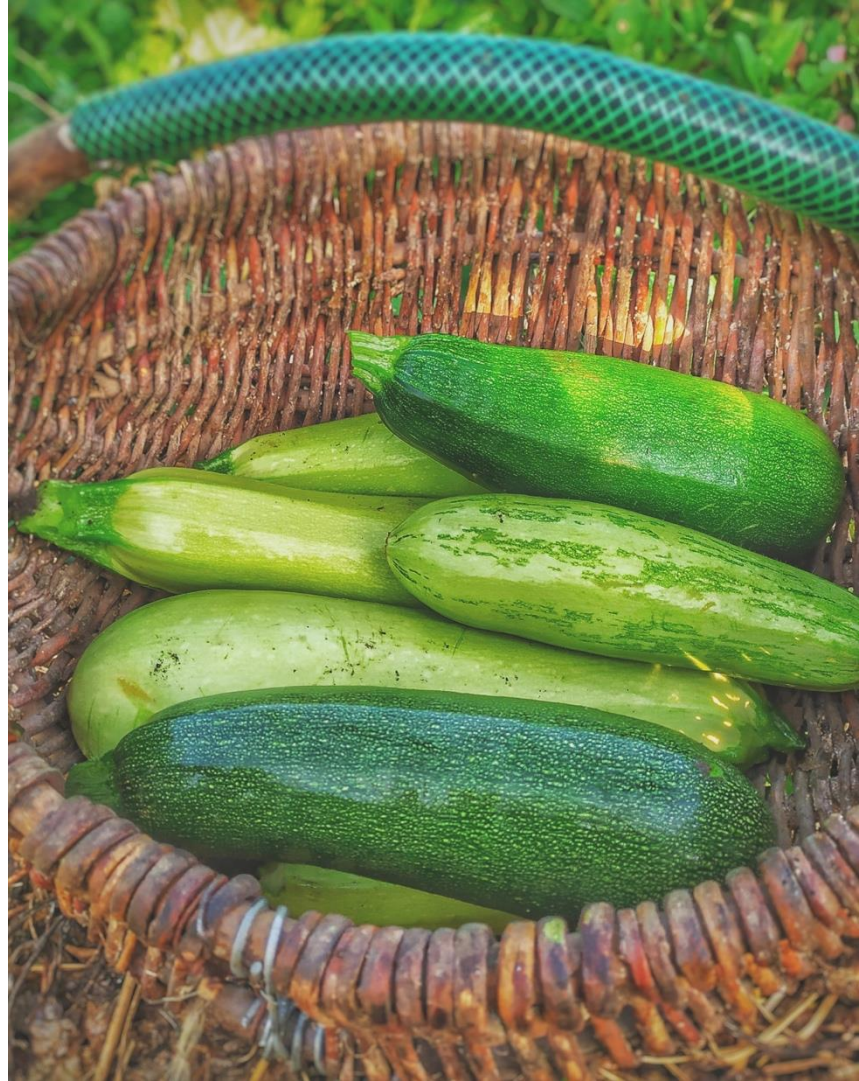
## BRENS

*Running on vibes & caffeine.*

---

Veggie gardening sounds like fun but if it doesn't work out, you

**Grow  
what you  
actually like  
to eat!**



# ...or grow a row to share!

hopelink



Plant a row

Share a row

Please join us by donating fresh produce from your garden!



Scan for more  
info from Hopelink

## Most Needed Items

Spinach

Lettuce

Bok Choy

Cilantro

Basil

Perilla/Shiso

Beets

Spring Radish

Winter Radish

Hot Peppers

Zucchini

Eggplant

Beans

Snow Peas

# Seeds or Starts?

**Direct Sowing** – low maintenance

Peas | Squash | Beans | Zukes | Cukes

**Starts** for these can save time & heartbreak

Tomatoes | Peppers | Broccoli | Cauliflower

# Plants Per Person, Per Year

**10**

Beans

**12**

Beets

**25**

Carrots

**15**

Corn

**1**

Cukes

**5**

Kale

**7**

Lettuce

**17**

Peas

**9**

Radish

**2**

Zukes

**12**

Spinach

**4**

Tomatoes

# Harvest Types

## Multi-Harvest:

Lettuce

Kale

Peas

Beans

Cucumbers

Summer Squash

Zucchini

Tomatoes

Peppers

Rhubarb

# Harvest Types

## Single Harvest:

Broccoli

Cabbage

Carrots

Radish

Corn

Beets



# PLANTING VEGETABLES

3

# Space Matters

You don't  
need to grow  
in rows



# Space Matters

You can grow vertically



# Space Matters

Growing in  
containers?  
Grow BIG



# Space Matters

Place Smaller Plants Around Bigger Ones



# Space Matters

## Watch Out for Space Hogs

Artichoke  
Asparagus  
Rhubarb  
Potatoes  
Brassicas



# Succession Planting

Growing more than one crop or several rounds of the same crop in the same place, in the same year.

Re-seed approximately **every 3 weeks** for most crops.

Succession  
Planting Blog Post



# Crop Rotation

Changing the placement of your crops from one year to the next.

**For disease prevention** - IF YOU HAVE IT  
i.e. Clubroot for brassicas or Tomato Blight

**For nutrient depletion** – Less important,  
as long as you fertilize well every year

Crop Rotation  
Blog Post



# Companion Planting

Companion planting is like playing 'hide & seek' with pests

Competing for nutrients is less of an issue, because you can fertilize.



Companion  
Planting  
Blog Post





# COMMON CONCERNS

4

# Take a Daily Garden Walk

What is thriving? What looks stressed?

Do I see any pests or disease pressure?

It's easiest to prevent, & to treat early!

What needs a little pruning?

What's ready for harvest?

Daily Walk  
Blog Post



**DON'T PANIC**

**Whether or not  
something is a  
problem is based  
on context**

**This is learned  
with experience**





# NUTRIENT DEFICIENCIES



# WATERING ISSUES



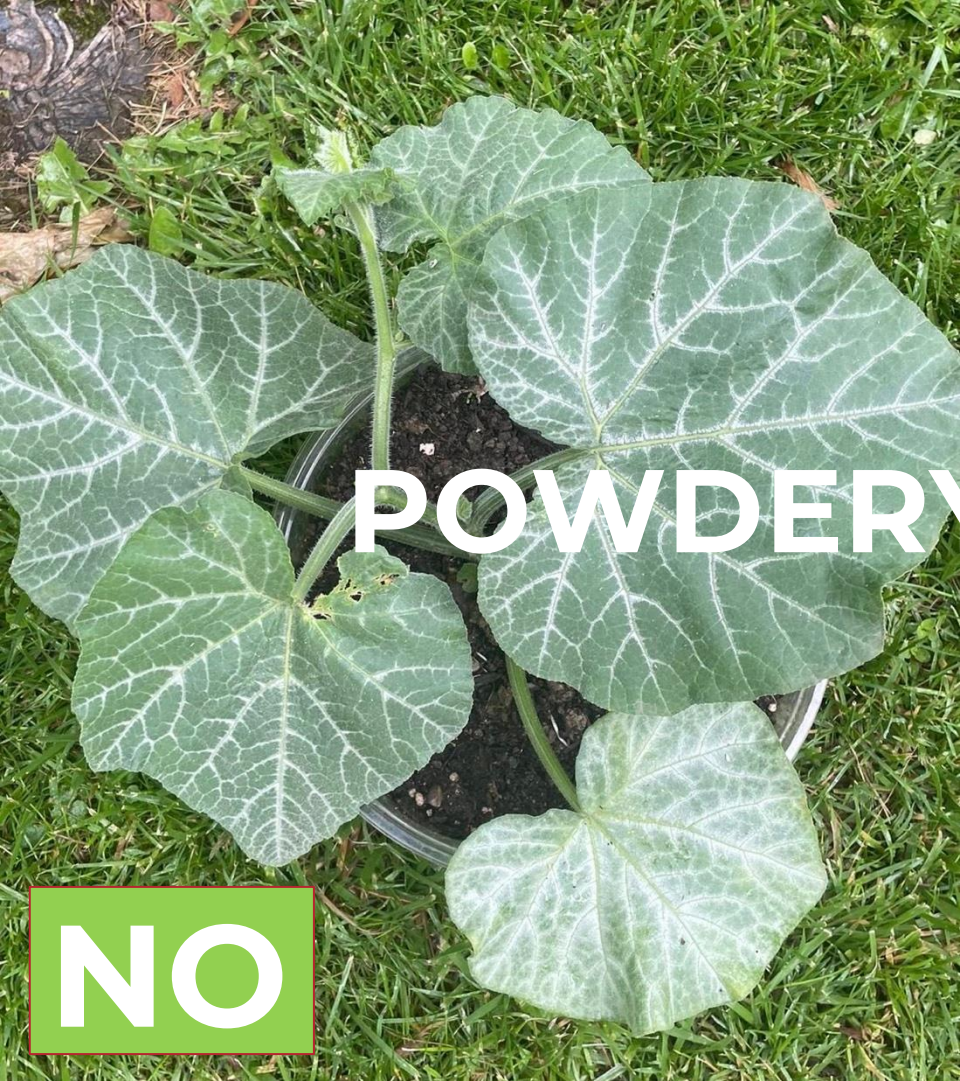
**TOO MUCH SUN**



# BLOSSOM END ROT

# POLLINATION ISSUES





# POWDERY MILDEW

**NO**



**YES**



# FLEA BEETLES



# CABBAGE WORM



This is a baby ladybug



# APHIDS

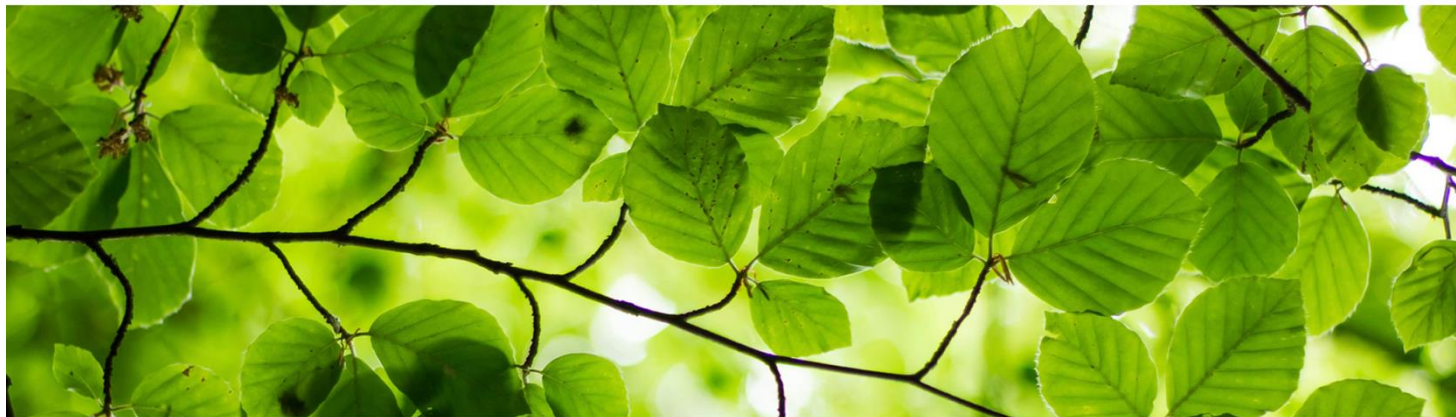




# CLOSING ADVICE

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- 
- 1. Learn from Northwest Gardeners**
  - 2. Look for short, single topic content online**



# INFO LIBRARY

## GENERAL GARDENING

- Bagged Material Price List
- Bulk Material Price List
- Container Design Tips
- Cover Crops
- It's Going to Freeze/ Thaw
- Lawn Care

## VEGETABLES & HERBS

- Cover Crops
- Garlic - Spring 2026
- Growing the Onion Family
- Neonics & Our Growers
- Peppers: 2025 List
- Perennial Vegetables

## FRUIT TREES & BERRIES

- Blackberries 2026
- Blueberries 2026
- Edible Ornamentals
- Fruit Trees, Getting Started
- Fruit Tree List 2026
- Fruit Tree Care

## INDOOR GARDENING

- African Violets
- Air Purifiers: Indoor
- Aroid & Moss Pole Basics
- Begonias: Indoor
- Bonsai: Indoor
- Carnivorous Plants



# Thank you. Questions?



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