

Start Seeds or Buy Plants for Vegetable Garden

- I purchase my tomatoes plants, annuals flowers, and hanging baskets in late April from a trusted greenhouse.
- When to plant, I usually plant my veggies around Memorial Day after any chance of frost. You can start by seed and grow indoors until frost is gone.
- I will plant the rest of vegetables from seeds in my raised beds and thin the plants to them out to make sure the veggies have enough room to grow.
- Vegetable gardens need at least 6 -8 hours of full sun every day. So, make sure you have the right spot for your vegetable garden.

Credit: Lori Smith

Clean Up the Garden & Tools

- Clean up the garden from last years growth like stems & leaves once temperature stay consistently above 50 degrees.
- Clearing of the leaves & old stems, you don't want to do too early because of ground bees, caterpillars & butterflies hibernate in them during the winter.
- If you didn't clean your garden tools, like clippers or trowels at the end of the season, then clean your tools now. You can use vinegar to remove rust and use oil to protect tool blades. Safely sharpen tools periodically.
- Please use Google to find out the best oils or cleaners to use on your tools.
- Please don't use any harmful chemicals on your tools because they can be transferred to your plants, especially vegetable or fruit plants/trees.
- We'll discuss this topic more in depth the October 10th session.

Credit: Lori Smith

Rain Barrels vs Sprinklers or Hoses

- I use the water from the rain barrels for watering my planters but not my vegetables.
- If you use the gutters from your roof to the rain barrel, the water will be contaminated by your shingle and roof materials.
- You can get a clean catch funnel for your rain barrel to catch clean rain water into your barrels if you want to water your vegetables.
- I suggest you use sprinklers or water by hand with a hose for your raised beds or your in-ground vegetable garden.

Credit: Lori Smith



Before & After The Backyard Garden Change In 2014/2015



Credit: Lori Smith

Vegetable Garden Change 2020/2021



Credit: Lori Smith



Credit: Lori Smith

Where to Buy Your Plants

- **Yardeners of SCS Native Plant Sale** Friday June 7th 8:00am - 4:00pm at Selenky Farmhouse 22504 11 mile & Jefferson behind the SCS Library (plants supplied by East Michigan Native Plants LLC)
- **Macomb County Master Gardener:** Native Plant Sale Sunday Sept 15, 2024 12:00pm - 3:00pm at the Octagon House Washington MI Presale begin in July
- **Wildtype Native Plants Nursery** 900 N Every Rd Mason, Michigan 48854
- **Ray Weigands** 47747 Romeo Plank Rd, Macomb, Mi 48044
- **Barson's Greenhouse** 6414 Merriman Rd, Westland MI 48185 (all types of host plants for different butterflies)
- **Eckert's Greenhouse** 34051 Ryan Rd, Sterling Heights opens April 19th for the Season
- **Blocks Stand and Greenhouse LLC** 29160 Eureka Road Romulus, MI 48174 near Metro Airport. The Hanging Baskets & Flats are lower prices than most plants. Opens around the end of April

Credit: Lori Smith

Contact Info

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[@gardener_lori](https://www.instagram.com/gardener_lori)



[@mastergardenerloris](https://www.youtube.com/@mastergardenerloris)

[MasterGardenerLoriSmith](https://www.youtube.com/Channel/MasterGardenerLoriSmith)

Memberships:

Saint Clair Shores Yardeners (2011)

Monarch Waystation

Certifications:

Credit: Lori Smith

MSHA Advanced Master Gardener (2020)

Credit: Lori Smith

Any Questions?

Lori Smith - Advanced Master Gardener
& Yardeners SCS member

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