

Prepare Your Garden With The Right Soil

- Do not use topsoil for your vegetable gardens, it does not add much nutritional value for your veggies & plants. I did use topsoil for years but not anymore.
- Now I use organic soil with compost & worm castings.
- For raised beds, I suggest Compost Soil. You can get it delivered in bulk by Soulliere Landscaping Patio and Garden Center or Landscape Supply Yard or other garden centers. It is cheaper to order in bulk, if you have a large area or many raised beds to fill.
- Use natural wood chips not the colored dyed type because of the chemicals used on them, especially in your vegetable garden.

Credit: Lori Smith

Examples of Organic Soil Mix in Bags



Credit: Lori Smith

Please Do Not Use Pesticides



Credit: Lori Smith

Raised Garden Beds

- You don't want to fill the raised bed containers with *only* the Compost Soil.
- I put sticks in the bottom of my own raised bed boxes.
- We will discuss raised beds more in depth in the June session on Vegetables,



Credit: Lori Smith

Starting Vegetable Seeds Indoors



Credit: Lori Smith

Start Seeds or Buy Plants for Vegetable Gardens

- I purchase my tomatoes plants and I plant other vegetables by seed.
- I usually plant my veggies between Mother's day and Memorial Day after any chance of frost. You can start by seed and grow indoors until frost is gone if you want to get started earlier.
- I will plant 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. Make sure you have the right spot for your vegetable garden.

Credit: Lori Smith

Watering Needs

Garden Genius Hacks - Follow
21h · 🌱

When Your Plants Need Watering

HOW OFTEN DO YOU NEED TO WATER YOUR GARDEN?

Plant	When to Water	Gallons Needed
Bell Peppers	Steady watering from flowering through to harvest time	2 per week
Cucumber	Frequently during flower and vegetable development	1 per week
Tomato	During the first month after transplanting, and when flowers/fruit form	>1, twice per week
Zucchini	Frequently, at all stages of growth	1 per week
Corn	When tassels form on cobs, and cobs begin to swell	2 at each stage listed
Basil	Regularly, keeping soil moist	Water as needed
Kale	Regularly, keeping soil moist	Water as needed
Potatoes	As soon as potatoes begin to form, and again when they are the size of marbles	2 per week
Peas	When flowers form, during pod formation, and during picking	2 per week
Carrots	During root development, and again before soil is completely dry	1 during root development, then 2 every 2 weeks
Lettuce	Water frequently at all stages of growth	2 per week
Onions	Infrequently under normal conditions, or during early stages during dry weather	1/2 - 1 per week if soil is dry

thenovicehomesteader.com

Credit: Lori Smith

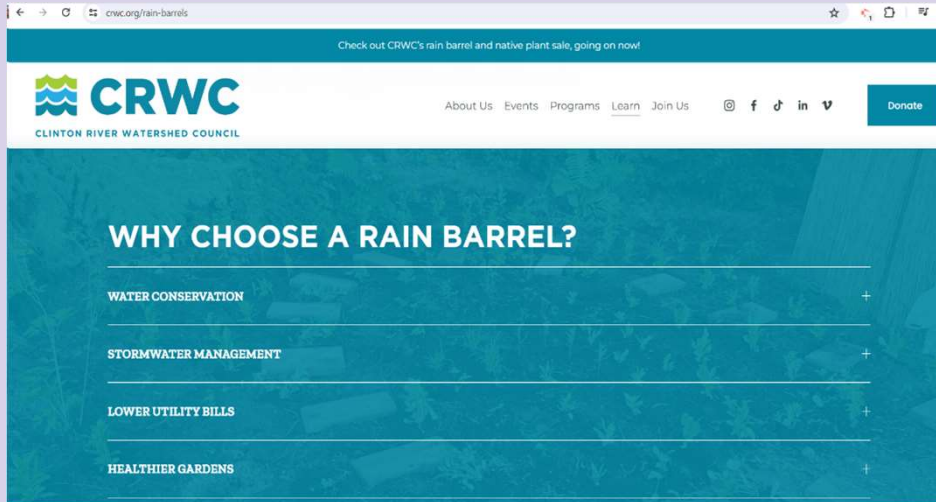
Rain Barrels vs Sprinklers or Hoses

- 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

The Clinton River Watershed Council is currently having a sale on Rain Barrels. Mail-in orders are due by tomorrow May 10, 2024 and online orders by Monday, May 13, 2024. Rain barrels must be picked up in Rochester Hills on Saturday, May 18, 2024 (11am-3pm). You can order them here:

<https://upcycle-products.com/mi-programs/crwc/>



<https://www.crwc.org/rain-barrels>

Rain barrels are \$68/barrel. Colors are Black, Blue, & Terra-Cotta. I have the Terra-Cotta ones.

Credit: Lori Smith

Rain Barrels Use For Flowering Plants Not Vegetables Draining From Roof

Credit: Lori Smith



<https://www.sterlingheights.gov/2115/Rain-Barrel-Project>

Credit: Lori Smith

Vegetable Garden Change 2020/2021



Credit: Lori Smith



Where to Buy Your Plants

- **Yardeners of SCS Native Plant Sale** Friday June 7th 10:00am - 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
- **East Michigan Natives Plants check website** www.eastmichnatives.com for other Plant sales
- **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)
- **Drew's Garden** 23751 Gratiot Avenue, Eastpointe, MI 48021
- **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 Detroit Metro Airport. The Hanging Baskets & Flats are lower priced than most Garden centers

Credit: Lori Smith

Contact Info

Lori Smith



mastergardenlsmith@gmail.com



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



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

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

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

Want to access the slides for this presentation?
Scan the QR code with the camera on your phone. Or send an email to mastergardenlsmith@gmail.com with the subject "RSV May Garden Slides"

