Let us help you to create a vegetable garden that is bursting with fresh produce; nothing quite beats the satisfaction of growing your own. And you know what you are eating is healthy and not sprayed with potentially harmful chemicals.

It All Starts With the Soil

Choose an area that is sunny (with at least five hours of sun a day), sheltered from the wind and easy to get to. Dig over the soil (tilling) to 30cm deep; this loosens the soil and enables roots to grow easily. We are the first to tell you that strong healthy plants are less susceptible to pests and diseases, and this starts with your soil. The better the soil, the better the plants. Incorporating the following into your veggie patch is a must for plant health, vigour and flavour.

- **Compost** – an excellent soil conditioner for improving soil structure and fertility. This should be added at least once a year to replenish the patch. Dig into the top 15cm of the soil. Allow the soil to sit for a few days before planting.
- **Sheep Pellets** – a slow-release fertiliser ideal for balanced plant growth and for feeding micro-organisms in the soil, thus improving fertility.
- **Garden Lime or Dolomite Lime** – a must if you grow brassicas (broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, etc.). Lime will increase the size of the brassica heads up to double and will stop club root from forming.

What to Grow and When

Choosing the right plants for your skill level is important; as you gain experience, more options become available. A lot of what you can grow also depends on your climate. Read our Seed Sowing Calendar for Vegetables for some easy-to-follow info. If you are a novice vegetable gardener, start with seedlings rather than seeds and ask us for some failsafe vegetables to start with. When planting be sure to provide plenty of space for each plant; read the instructions on the packet or ask us if you're unsure. The width between rows is especially important to allow air movement. Never plant during the heat of the day as this can cause transplant shock; always plant in the early morning or late evening and water plants in well.

Keeping Your Food Fed

To grow, we eat. The same principle applies to the veggie patch. No food means smaller vegetables with less flavour.

Feed your plants with:

- **Sheep Pellets** – continue smaller scatterings at 4–6-week intervals.
- **Oderings Garden Replenish** – a brilliant fertiliser especially for the veggie patch. It is high in nitrogen, which helps improve leaf growth, which is what you need to grow vegetables. Apply once the plants have been in the garden for 2–3 weeks.
- **Yates Thrive Vegie & Herb Liquid Plant Food concentrate** – a complete liquid plant food that provides plants with the balanced nutrition they need to produce strong, healthy growth and improved yields. Used at two-week intervals closer to harvest will ensure full flavour.
- **Water** – not food per se but it is what your plants require in order to grow. Water regularly. Water in early morning or late afternoon, but don't water too late into the evening as this can cause fungus. Water the soil under your plants where possible, not the leaves.

Pests and Diseases

Unfortunately even if you do everything correctly, sometimes you may get the odd pest or disease. If this is the case bring a sample in to us and we can help you find the right solution.

Winter Vegetables

Personally I believe the soil should not be left empty over winter; to do so spoils the soil texture, aeration and drainage. So to make the most of empty patches, I like to sow green crops. They are so easy to grow. Just sprinkle the seeds over the ground, rake in and water. See our Green Crops Brochure for more info. There are of course vegetable crops that grow well in winter. To see this range pop in and see us or view it online at www.oderings.co.nz.

Crop Rotation

It is important to rotate your crops yearly; this means plants should not be grown in the same plot of land in successive years. In fact, plants from the same family should not be in the same section as the previous two years, so you're going to have a three-year rotation sequence. An easy solution is to rotate based on what you eat: leafy plants (lettuce, spinach, etc.) one year, fruiting plants (tomatoes, squash, etc.) the second year, and rooting plants (onions, carrots, etc.) the third year. This is not absolutely necessary but it reduces the likelihood of problems with insects, funguses and diseases etc.

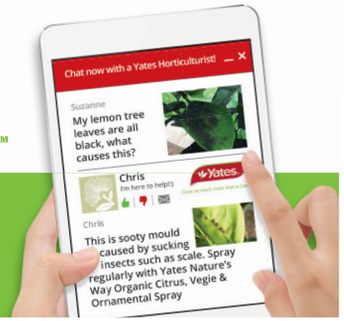
Grow your own Vegies

Yates® Thrive® Natural Garden Lime is an all purpose BioGro certified input for organic gardening that contains natural NZ sourced lime. Garden Lime adjusts soil acidity and helps to maintain the pH at an optimal level, enabling plants easier access to nutrients in the soil.

Yates® Thrive® Vegie & Herb Liquid Plant Food is a fast feeding fertiliser with balanced nutrition to produce strong, healthy vegies and improved yields. Dual-action formula that feeds through both leaves & roots.

Yates®

Great things start with Yates™



For more advice on growing vegies talk to Yates on 0800 693 297, or via Live Chat on yates.co.nz
Send your pics for quick problem solving!

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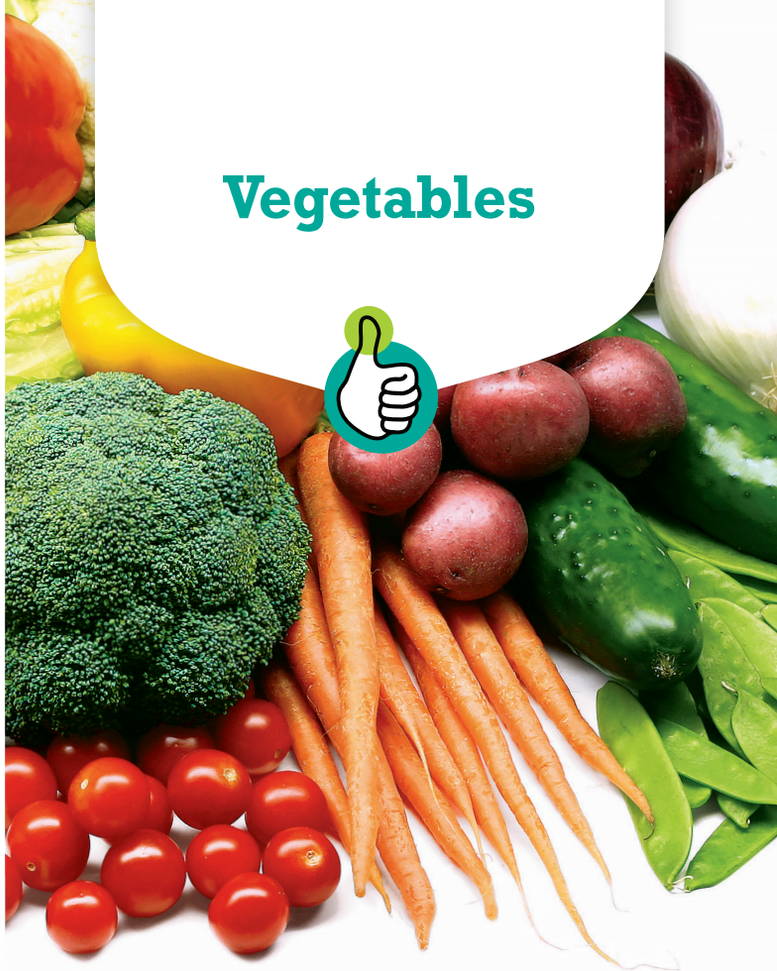

Vegetables

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