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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- OLC Agriculture & Natural Resource Outreach Field Assistants are available for technical assistance in training on soil sampling methods. They can advise where to send samples for testing at minimum costs to producers.
- Outreach contacts:
 - Julie Goings – Outreach Educator
 - Randy Two Crow – Outreach Field Aide
 - Benny Rosales – Outreach Field Aide

**For technical assistance
Call 605-455-6121**

OGLALA LAKOTA
COLLEGE

AGRICULTURE &
NATURAL RESOURCE
DEPARTMENT

Organic Gardening
Spring Planting



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WHY USE ORGANIC GARDEN METHODS

1. Organic gardening method is an old method of planting and maintaining a vegetable garden.
2. This method utilizes local organic sources of plant nutrients for vegetable and flower garden production.
 - Animal manures (as cattle, horse, or bison manure) or plant cover crops (as beans) used to supply nitrogen nutrients for vegetable production instead of commercial chemicals.
 - Nitrogen is the major nutrient that is low in local soils in the Pine Ridge area of South Dakota (results of local soil test plots at Oglala Lakota College organic research site).
 - Soil test on samples from your local site are helpful in analyzing your gardens nutrient needs.
3. Organic pesticides used to minimize pest damage to vegetable crops. This method tries to work with nature to improve your garden site for future production.



HOW TO BEGIN

Begin by planning where you will plant your garden and how large a garden you have time to maintain.

1. If you are a beginner in vegetable gardening or have limited time, start small. We recommend a 10 ft by 10 ft garden to begin with. (You can add on each year as you get more experience.) The saying "Practice makes perfect" fits with gardening as it does with any new learning experience.
2. Vegetable gardens will produce better on a South or East slope (this could also be looked as which side of your home). Heat loving plants will do well on a West slope, but cool loving plants as lettuce may burn if not shaded on a west slope.
3. Chose which vegetables you will plant. It is best to start with vegetables that your family will eat and that can grow in your area.



4. Contact your local outreach extension educator form your local tribal land-grant college or your state land grant university extension service or the USDA web sites for current information on organic food production.

Garden site preparation

HOW DO I PREPAIR MY SOIL

- Take soil samples from your site and send them for soil testing for nutrient content or use a commercial garden soil testing kit from a garden center.
- Prepare soil at garden site through tillage methods available in your area. (Hand tillage works best in small gardens.)
- Apply organic fertilizer following recommendations from your soil test results.
- Plant vegetables according to individual species recommendations on seed packets, consult local area gardens, or contact your local outreach extension office for assistance.
- Monitor your garden for pest as weeds and insects daily.
- Also, monitor your garden for plant water needs. South Western South Dakota gardens need added water to maintain vegetable gardens. Most garden plants need one to two inch of water per week. Our local growing season is about 16 to 20 weeks. Will rain fall averages are 10 to 16 inches annually.