



# KOLZE'S CORNER GARDENS

815 - 338 - 1475



## Preparing a Veggie Garden

### → STARTING WITH POOR SOIL?

- Turn soil over with a rototiller or shovel the best you can. Turn the grass upside down (this is good fertilizer)
- Add & Mix – 70% Top Soil, 20% Peat Moss, and 10% Mushroom Compost. Or used already mixed Better Than Top Soil (BTT) found @ Kolze's.

### → DIRECT SEED SCHEDULE

- Early April: Carrots, Beets, Kohlrabi, Radish, Lettuce, Snap Peas, Potatoes and Onions
- Mid May to June: Sweet Corn, Beans, MuskMelon, Pumpkins, Squash, Cucumbers

### → TRANSPLANT SCHEDULE

- Early April: Broccoli, Cabbage, Brussels Sprouts, Cauliflower, Lettuce
- Mid May to June: Peppers, Tomatoes, Eggplant, Zucchini Squash, Pumpkins, Cucumbers, MuskMelon, and Watermelon

### ★ Give GOOD space:

Pumpkins = 6-8 ft. Tomatoes = 3-4 ft. Peppers = 18-24" Vine Crop = 3-4 ft.

### ★ GIVE AS MUCH SUN AS POSSIBLE

## KEY POINTS

- ❖ *Help the transplant get started with good waterings until a rain soaks them*
- ❖ *Once your seedlings or transplants are "up and running" (new growth) let the plant work to find their own water... this is unless we go through a DRY Spell*
- ❖ *Avoid using mulch on top of the soil – this cuts off air to the roots + **promotes blight diseases**)*
- ❖ *Try growing some tomatoes unstaked; the yield will be greater as plants become self sufficient*
- ❖ *Use a nutrient source in late May - June (Osmocote slow release is easy) or a garden food. Use between rows not at the base of plants. This application helps plants through long summer days.*
- ❖ *Cultivate / Weed the garden for aeration using a HOE*
- ❖ *Force MORE Fruits with a Heavy Dose of Patience. Let the plants wait until the next rain. The mushroom compost / garden foods are the "Booster Shot" the plants need to survive lack of rain.*
- ❖ *With raised beds, leave access to the ground (DON'T put a bottom piece of plywood on your bed). Allowing ground access raises your bed but still provides much more room for roots to grow.*
- ❖ *RAISED BEDS: Turn area over, build up edging to preferred height, add soil mixture to fill.*