

What you'll need to get started on your **D.I.Y.** Project

Materials

Mulch
Fertiliser (blood and bones, animal manure)
Large pots, planter boxes and troughs
Vegetable seeds or seedlings
Soil pH kit (optional)
Complete fertiliser
Stakes

Tools

Shovel

Safety

Be very careful using snail bait if you have children or pets. Dogs find it particularly attractive and it can kill them if they eat it.
Always keep tools and materials away from children.

Planning your next **D.I.Y.** Project

The Bunnings **D.I.Y.** brochures are designed to help you step the way through your **D.I.Y.** home projects.

They'll give you the right advice on what materials you'll need, how to get the job done and tips and ideas for achieving the best result.



Expert **D.I.Y.** advice

If it's advice you're after, come in and discuss the project with one of our experts. Ask about organising Same Day Delivery, Tool Hire, Installation or even enrol in one of our **D.I.Y.** classes.



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D.I.Y.

Grow Vegetables

How to grow vegetables



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How to **D.I.Y.** Grow Vegetables

There is nothing more rewarding than watching your vegetables grow from seedlings into edible sized vegetables to enjoy.

Please Note:

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Choosing your site

When choosing a site for your vegetables it is important to select an area that has high exposure to the sun and is sheltered from the wind. Steer clear of large trees as their roots will compete with the vegetables for space, nutrients and water. The soil must be well-draining soil, therefore add top soil if the soil is stony, or if it is clay, then you may choose to use raised beds to improve drainage.

Prepare the soil

Once you are certain the drainage is suitable, it is time to prepare the soil. Soil preparation for vegetables is similar for herbs in that they prefer a light, well-drained, crumbly soil, but most vegetables will grow satisfactorily in fairly heavy soil provided there is good drainage. Dig the soil to a depth of about 25cm (Fig 1), remove all weeds and break up clods to bring the soil to a moderately fine texture. If the soil lacks humus, place 5-10cm of organic matter, such as straw and compost, on the surface and dig in to spade depth. At the same time, apply animal manure, blood and bone, or a complete fertiliser.

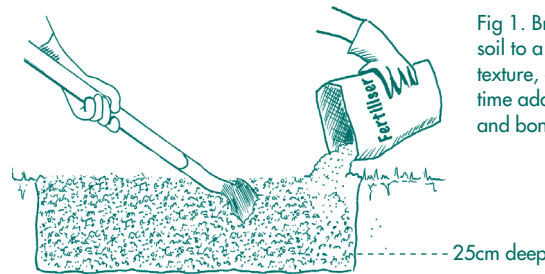


Fig 1. Break up the soil to a dry crumbly texture, at the same time adding blood and bone.

Seeds or seedlings

Vegetables can also be grown separately in pots, which is ideal for the apartment lifestyle. All vegetables differ in their planting and harvesting season- here is a rough guide.

Warm season vegetables (planted October to February, harvested December to May)

- Tomatoes
- Sweet corn
- Squash
- Egg plants
- Melons
- Capsicums
- Cucumbers
- Potatoes
- Pumpkins
- Beans

Cool season vegetables (planted February to September, harvest May to December)

- Broccoli
- Brussels sprouts
- Cauliflower
- Onions
- Shallots
- Peas
- Spinach
- Turnips
- Broad beans

All season vegetables (less affected by season temperatures)

- Cabbage
- Carrots
- Celery
- Leeks
- Lettuce
- Parsnips
- Radish
- Beetroot
- Silver beet

Some climbing vegetables, such as beans and tomatoes, require supporting stakes.

Garden pests

Snails and slugs are the main offenders and they can be controlled with pellets. Some gardeners make their own organic pesticides that taste so terrible that your pests will move on (Fig 3). Two examples are mixing garlic, chilli and onion or by mixing kelp and neem oil.



Fig 2. Making your own organic pesticide is a great natural alternative to chemicals, and they really work!

Fig 3. Vegetables always taste so much better if they are from your own garden. Whether you choose a small or large vegie patch, your taste buds will be rewarded with what mother nature has to offer.



For further expert advice consult the qualified Team Members at your local Bunnings Warehouse.