

120 South Street Westborough, MA  508-366-1545

harveysfarm.com harveysfarm@yahoo.com

**Veggie Gardening 101 “Cheat Sheet”**

**Location & Scale** – Where Will Your Garden Be Located? How Big or Small?

* Movable Containers or Planted?
* The More Sun in the Area, the More Choices
* Start small and build on SUCCESS!
* Tall Plants (like tomatoes) on North Side of Garden, Don’t Save Space for Lettuce, use it as a “plug-in” crop in between your taller plants, the shade will help keep it cool & happier too!

**Plant Selection & Sunlight**-

* What Sunlight - Full Sun to Full Shade and everything in between, watch the area throughout the day and throughout the season
* What do you like to eat? How big is your family?

**The “Dirt” About Soil** – Soil Testing - When in doubt, find out!

* Essential Nutrients, Organic Matter & Texture, ~~Horse Manure~~ (no value)
* Nutrients & Calcium (water-soluble) need to be applied at least twice in a season
* Old, Compacted Dirt – Change It and Add Nutrients
* “Healthy Soil, Healthy Plants…Healthy You!” = **Feed the Soil** so it Feeds You

**“Garden Cart Combo” -**  rated for approx 100-150ft2 *Other Options Available*

1. **Peat Moss** – Using an iron rake/pitch fork, break apart compressed bale of peat moss, spread evenly over entire garden
2. **Dehyrdrated Cow Manure**-Use both bags, spread evenly over peat moss
3. **Chickity Doo Doo** (pelletized chicken manure): sprinkle full bag over cow manure
4. **Pelletized Lime / Mag-i-Cal:** Sprinkle full bag over chickity doo doo.
5. **Incorporate/Mix/Rototill**
6. **Plant**– There’s no sense in having a garden full of water-soluble nutrients, then it rains, and the nutrients aren’t feeding any plants
7. **Re**-**Apply Fertilizer & Lime-** After 6-8 weeks (or more frequently if we have had a lot of rain)

**\*\*Other Animal-Free Products Available – Dr Earth Vegetable Planting Soil & Fertilizer and Mag-i-Cal (pelletized lime) will keep things organic and manure-free\*\***

**Watering**- “A human with a hose is the kiss of death,” says Farmer Harvey

* The problem is Too much frequency, not enough volume of water – better to be out once/week for 30 mins than 7 days a week for 5 mins 🡪 roots will follow the moisture deep 🡪 healthier plants
* Containers vs. Planted in the ground – Are containers able to picked up to test weight? Most of a plant’s weight is the water – heavy = lots of moisture , light= may need a drink (depending on the plant)

**“Feed Me”** – Plants Need to be Fed, Just Like People

* Water-Soluble (necessary application every third watering) vs. Continuous-Release ( the “insurance policy”)
* Be sure to reapply fertilizer and lime at least twice or three times during a season. As the season progresses, it’s rained/you have watered, the plants have taken up nutrients and are getting bigger, but less nutrients are present in the soil…time to FEED & LIME!

**Questions/Notes:**