

# Gardening 101: Choosing the right spot for your garden

Where should you put a garden? Actually, it is easier to say where you should not put it. Do not put it under a tree. When trees are in leaf, they block out too much sunlight for a vegetable garden. Feel free to put your compost bin under a tree, or put your garden tool shed there, but don't put your garden in a tree's shade. Ideally, your garden's location should have eight or more hours of sunlight per day. When it comes to sunlight during the growing season, more is almost always better as long as you can keep your plants adequately watered.

However, when selecting your garden's location, do not put it in a constantly wet area because too much moisture is just as bad as too little. Most plants don't like to have their roots wet constantly, so they do not grow well in soaking wet soil. Also, avoid a frost pocket, or low point in your yard where cold air flows downhill and stays there overnight. Plants that are located in a frost pocket tend to be late blooming in spring and are also killed by frost in the fall before plants located in a warm,

sunny location are. Finally, make sure that you select a garden location where you have enough area to adequately space a number of plants. You're going to grow all manner of plants, aren't you? So don't overcrowd them.

How much space will you need?

The amount of space you need for your garden depends on how many plants you intend to grow and what those plants are. For example, if you like coleslaw and want to grow cabbages, you need to allow at least one square foot per cabbage plant. This will be fine when the cabbages are young, but as they mature and grow larger each plant will need a little more space. You can provide this by harvesting alternate plants to give the largest cabbages a space of about 30 inches by 30 inches when fully grown.

If you want to grow a tomato plant, allow a circle of about 30-inches diameter around a plant that is staked and trained upwards. If you do not stake your tomatoes, they will yield earlier, but spread



**The Island Garden**

By Roger Marshall

out to about 4 feet and you will lose a few to slugs and snails. While the plant is young and a few inches high, plant lettuce or basil inside your 24-inch circle. As your tomato grows, harvest the lettuce or basil.

Here's a list of plants and the spacing that they require. I tend to grow intensively, so the spacings given here are minimums. To plant this closely, you will need to have very good soil with adequate nutrients and a layer of mulch to prevent the soil from drying out. We'll tell you how to grow each type of plant in future columns.

Artichokes – Provide a circle of about 20 to 28 inches in diameter per plant.

Asparagus – An asparagus bed to feed a family of four should be about 4 by 8 feet.

Beans – grow bush beans spaced about 4 to 6 inches apart. Grow pole beans spaced about 6 to 8 inches apart.

Beets – After sowing beet seeds into the soil, thin the seedlings to about 3 inches apart. Then, harvest alternate beets for salad greens and let larger plants develop.

Celery – Celery likes moist ground. Allow about 6 to 8 inches between plants.

Carrots – After sowing the seeds, thin the seedlings to about 3 inches apart. A good trick here is to mix the tiny carrot seeds with a little sand to help spread the seeds out. Alternatively, you can buy seed strips to cut down on waste.

Cauliflower/Cabbage/Broccoli – Allow about one square foot per plant.

Corn – Corn is a very heavy feeder so you'll need to allow at least one square foot per plant. You'll also need to keep it moist, fertilize heavily, and protect it from raccoons.

Cucumber – Grow on vertical trellises, planting about 6 to 8 inches apart.

Eggplant/Peppers – Provide a circle at least 12 to 18 inches per plant.

Leeks – Allow 4 to 6 inches per plant in heavily fertilized soil.

Lettuce – Provide at least one square foot per plant. Then harvest the plants alternately and allow older plants to grow.

Winter squash/Melons – Winter squash and melons sprawl, so you might want to have five or six plants in a 4 by 4 foot area and allow them to sprawl in every direction. I have found melons up to 20 feet away from the root.

Tomatoes – as mentioned above, grow them vertically. My plants have grown as high as 12 feet and 4 feet diameter.

Turnips – Sow the seeds directly into the soil and thin to about 6 inches apart.

Zucchini – Plant one or two plants in a 4 foot circle and offer zucchini free to neighbors or leave them on tables at the East Ferry Deli and Slice of Heaven.

## Letters

Continued from page 6

There is always room for improvement, and we've found that hardly anybody opposes it. Please, for me, the future generation, help us save the world.

**Matthew Gregoire  
Jamestown**

## Station renovations are unnecessary

This letter is in regards to article written in the Dec. 24, 2008 edition of the Jamestown Press, titled, "Council approves \$400K police station design."

I feel it very unnecessary for this sum of money to go towards renovating the police station. Town Architect William Burgin said, "The basic renovations include expanding the men's and women's locker rooms, adding offices and an administrative filing area, renovated bathrooms, and the addition of 12 parking spaces." Burgin also said, "Options included repainting the exterior, replacing carpet and vinyl flooring, as well as replacing the flat roof."

These renovations do not seem vital to the department's overall structure. It would be a different story if the roof was leaking

or the walls were unstable. The money being used for the renovation could be going towards other things to benefit the entire community.

Another concern of mine is the number of officers in Jamestown. There is absolutely no need for the town and its taxpayers to pay for fifteen officers, especially since its nine square miles. Its not like Jamestown has a lot of criminals or violence.

**Kaan Kurt  
Jamestown**

## Generous hearts keep others warm

What a great community we live in! Even in our tough economic times, our annual mitten

drive was a tremendous success. The generosity was abundant this year as we collected 430 items, including hats, mittens, scarves, slippers and other outerwear for the Women's Resource Center of Newport & Bristol Counties.

This year's donations totaled a significant amount more than last year. The WRC is very grateful, as are the employees of the Town of Jamestown.

If you had good intentions of donating and were unable to, don't worry, the need is always there and we intend to continue our annual tradition in 2009.

Best wishes to all for a happy and healthy New Year and thank you again.

**Heather Lopes  
Deputy Town Clerk**

## TOWN MEETINGS

**Thursday, Jan. 22**

7 p.m., Lawn School library, the School Committee meets.

**Tuesday, Jan. 27**

7 p.m., Town Hall, Zoning Board meets.

**Wednesday, Jan. 28**

6:30 p.m., Town Council/ Ft. Getty Committee joint workshop

## H.V. HOLLAND, INC.

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2 HAMMETT COURT, P.O. BOX 335  
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## Almanac – Thursday, January 22, 2009

### Local Tides This Week

NEWPORT				
DAY	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW
Thur	4:44 a.m.	11:37 a.m.	5:03 p.m.	10:59 p.m.
Fri	5:30 a.m.	12:08 p.m.	5:50 p.m.	11:41 p.m.
Sat	6:14 p.m.	12:34 p.m.	6:33 p.m.	
Sun	6:55 a.m.	12:16 a.m.	7:14 p.m.	1:02 p.m.
Mon	7:35 a.m.	12:52 a.m.	7:54 p.m.	1:29 p.m.
Tue	8:14 a.m.	1:27 p.m.	8:32 p.m.	1:58 p.m.
Wed	8:52 a.m.	2:02 a.m.	9:11 p.m.	2:28 p.m.

  

CONANICUT POINT				
DAY	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW
Thur	4:51 a.m.	11:31 a.m.	5:10 p.m.	10:53 p.m.
Fri	5:37 a.m.	12:02 p.m.	5:57 p.m.	11:35 p.m.
Sat	6:21 p.m.	12:28 p.m.	6:40 p.m.	
Sun	7:02 a.m.	12:10 a.m.	7:21 p.m.	12:56 p.m.
Mon	7:42 a.m.	12:46 a.m.	8:01 p.m.	1:23 p.m.
Tue	8:21 a.m.	1:21 p.m.	8:39 p.m.	1:52 p.m.
Wed	8:59 a.m.	1:56 a.m.	9:18 p.m.	2:22 p.m.

### Sun / Moon Chart This Week

DAY	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset
Thur	7:06 a.m.	4:47 p.m.	4:42 a.m.	1:21 p.m.
Fri	7:06 a.m.	4:48 p.m.	5:30 a.m.	2:16 p.m.
Sat	7:05 a.m.	4:49 p.m.	6:12 a.m.	3:16 p.m.
Sun	7:04 a.m.	4:51 p.m.	6:46 a.m.	4:19 p.m.
Mon	7:03 a.m.	4:52 p.m.	7:15 a.m.	5:23 p.m.
Tue	7:02 a.m.	4:53 p.m.	7:40 a.m.	6:28 p.m.
Wed	7:02 a.m.	4:54 p.m.	8:02 a.m.	7:32 p.m.



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**Wednesday and Thursday  
DINNER for 2 for \$20.09**

Add a bottle of "Barefoot Cellars" for \$5  
*Because it's never too cold to go Barefoot*

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**Dinner Wednesday thru Saturday  
from 4 p.m.**

Closed Sunday, Monday & Tuesday  
*Oasis Lounge available for up to 40 guests*

**'CALIFORNIA DREAMING'**  
*Wine Tasting – Next Friday, Jan. 30th*

**14 Narragansett Ave. 423-1490**

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**OPEN HOUSE**  
Saturday, January 24  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

\*Snow date January 25, 1-3 PM  
NEW TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

530 Ives Road East Greenwich, RI 02818 (401) 884-9070 [www.rockyhill.org/openhouse1.html](http://www.rockyhill.org/openhouse1.html)