

RED RIDGE FARM PRESENTS

START A GARDEN CHECKLIST



CRYSTAL MEDIATE



INTRODUCTION

Starting a garden is not about just having a can-do attitude and a healthy dose of God's help. Starting your first garden is going to take knowing the right steps and with these steps I know you can do anything!

Welcome to the Start Your Garden (Step by Step) Checklist. If you feel deep down that the Lord is leading you to grow your own food so that your family can have food stability and healthy options for their plates.

You are in the right place!

This checklist is for every christian woman who wants to honor the Lord but doesn't know where she should start.

For every woman who is tired of being discouraged by the overwhelm that comes from just too much information and just wants a step by step plan laid out for her. I have been there! There are so many gardening books and videos, but everyone's viewpoint is just a little different!

This checklist is for every beginning gardener who wants a step by step process of starting their first garden that is direct and to the point!

If you are that person,

Then I can't wait to help you on your God given Purpose of growing your own food!

Have a Blessed Day,

CRYSTAL MEDIATE

(A GOD DRIVEN GARDENER)



START A GARDEN CHECKLIST

- Choose a Garden Location

- Soil Test

- Choose What to Grow and How Much

- Find your Zone and Frost Dates

- Make a Budget

- Decide on Garden Design and Style

- Lay Out our Garden Size

- Analyze your Soil Test

- Order Seeds

- Build Garden and Irrigation System

- Make a Schedule of Tasks

- Plant!

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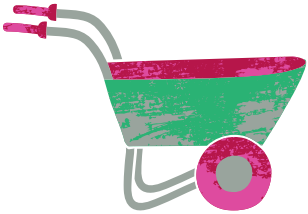


IN THEIR HEARTS
HUMANS PLAN THEIR
COURSE, BUT THE LORD
ESTABLISHES THEIR
STEPS.

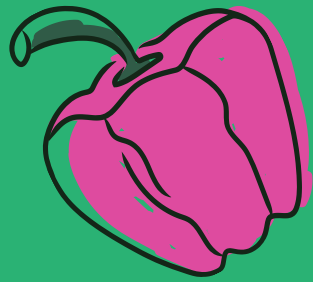
PROVERBS 16:9

STEP #1 - CHOOSE A GARDEN LOCATION

Your garden location is the first decision you will need to make. You are going to need to study your property for the perfect location that will have everything a garden needs like: sun, water, wind, and soil. You will live with this choice for the rest of your gardening career. Remember, for your first year start small but also be aware of your future garden expansion.



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NOW THE
PARABLE IS
THIS: THE SEED
IS THE WORD
OF GOD.

LUKE 8:11

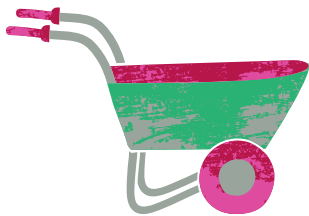
STEP #2 - SOIL TEST

All soil will support life; it just depends on the quality to know how much life it is able to support. How can you find this out?

A soil test!

What is a Soil Test?

A soil test is when you as the gardener take samples from your future garden spot and send them in to be tested for the common nutrients that all plants need. The test will even tell your soil PH. Most vegetables will only grow between 6.0 to 7.0 PH. I was one of those beginners who did take this step and Let me tell you I regret it!





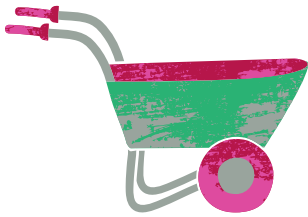


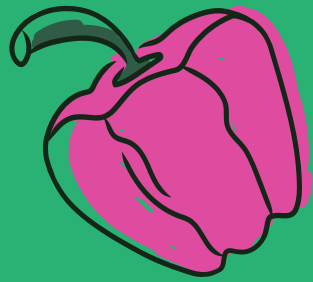
MAY HE GIVE YOU
THE DESIRE OF
YOUR HEART AND
MAKE ALL YOUR
PLANS SUCCEED

PSALMS 20:4

STEP #3 - CHOOSE WHAT TO GROW AND HOW MUCH

The greatest advice I can give you is to grow what you like to eat. I remember a year when I had the best cabbage crop. I told myself when I was sowing the seeds, I am not much of a cabbage fan but I am sure I can grow to like it. It is so good for you. Do you know who ate most of that cabbage? It wasn't me, I gave most of it away and the rest to my chickens! I tried so many different recipes. That cabbage was a waste of my time and energy. Start with veggies you like to eat. The best place to find your list is on your monthly menu plan! How much you will need to grow is not based on how big your garden bed is but your family size and how much your chosen veggie will produce. Remember the adage " You can only give away so many Zucchini to your neighbor before they stop returning your phone calls."





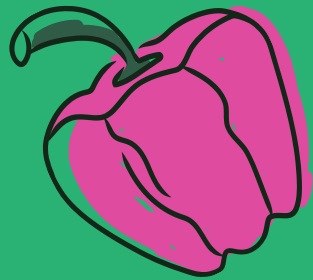
COMMIT TO THE
LORD WHATEVER
YOU DO, AND HE
WILL ESTABLISH
YOUR PLANS

PROVERBS 16:3



PLANS FAIL FOR
LACK OF
COUNSEL, BUT
WITH MANY
ADVISERS THEY
SUCCEED.

PROVERBS 15:22



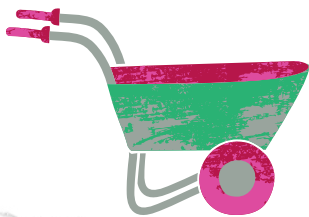
MANY ARE THE
PLANS IN A
PERSON'S HEART,
BUT IT IS THE
LORD'S PURPOSE
THAT PREVAILS.

PROVERBS 19:21

STEP #6 - DECIDE ON GARDEN DESIGN AND STYLE

What do you see in your dream garden? Do you see raised beds, for easy maintenance? Do you see a no-till garden, with designated beds and paths that don't change over the years? Do you see a garden with military rows of vegetables? Do you see a garden full of vegetables and flowers living in a codependent environment? Do you see a one season garden? Do you see a multi-season garden? Do you see a year round garden? Do you see a garden that will be a hobby to take up extra time or a garden that will feed your growing family? Do you see a garden that is planted once and keeps giving for many years to come? The options are endless. Or do you see a combination of garden styles?

Here is where you need to answer the above questions for yourself! Don't hesitate to research and find out all the information before you decide.





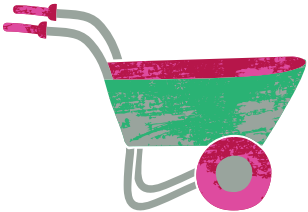


PREPARE YOUR WORK
OUTSIDE; GET
EVERYTHING READY
FOR YOURSELF IN THE
FIELD, AND AFTER THAT
BUILD YOUR HOUSE.

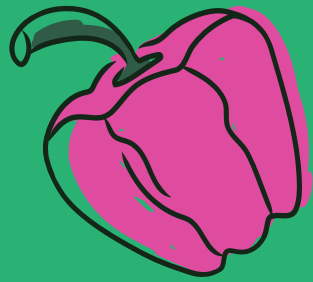
PROVERBS 24:27

STEP #7 - USE THE DATA FROM STEP 3, 5, AND 6 TO LAY OUT OUR GARDEN SIZE

You and your family are unique so your garden size will be unique also! In your first year plan on starting small you don't need to replace all of your veggies just yet. Next year you can expand. So plan your garden with a 3 year goal in mind. Your plan is going to take time up front but with the right plan your garden will be a joy instead of burden! Just remember a garden plan is not one size fits all!



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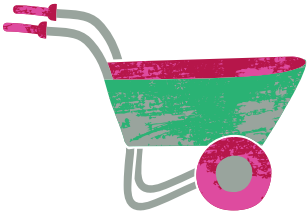


DESIRE WITHOUT
KNOWLEDGE IS NOT
GOOD, AND
WHOEVER MAKES
HASTE WITH HIS FEET
MISSES HIS WAY.

PROVERBS 19:2

STEP #8 - ANALYZE YOUR SOIL TEST

In step 2 I recommended that you do a soil test. Now is the time to analyze your results so as you are building your beds you can add the amendments you are going to need from the start! Soil improvement is a slow process that will take years. Focus on the big fixes you will need and stay with in your budget.



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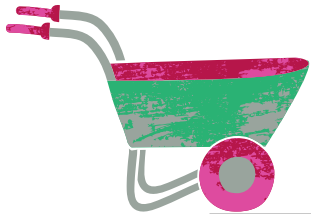


THERE IS A TIME
FOR
EVERYTHING, AND A
SEASON FOR EVERY
ACTIVITY UNDER
THE HEAVENS.

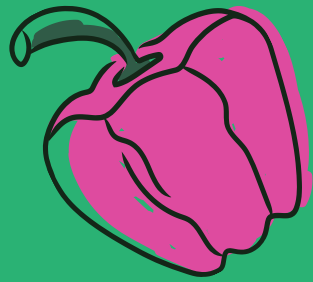
ECCLESIASTES 3:1

STEP #9 - ORDER SEEDS

I love this part! I think seed catalogues are my favorite pieces of mail! For a beginner they can seem overwhelming. But you are ready with your Hardiness Zone and Growing days to harvest all figured out so you are already ahead of the game. Look through and find varieties for all your chosen veggies that will grow in your area. This is best done in February and March before the seed stores run out of their most popular varieties. Now is also the time to consider if you are willing to start some of your veggies on your own or buy seedlings. Things like tomatoes or any veggie that takes longer than your growing season are going to be needed to be started in pots in your home! I suggest if your budget allows you to purchase your seedlings the first year.



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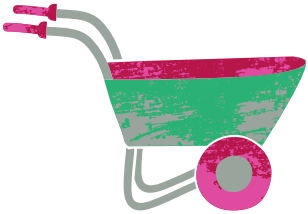


IN ALL YOUR WAYS
ACKNOWLEDGE
HIM, AND HE WILL
MAKE STRAIGHT
YOUR PATHS.

PROVERBS 3:6

STEP #10 - BUILD YOUR GARDEN AND IRRIGATION SYSTEM

Now that you have your plan and your seeds it is time to build your dream garden! These may take a few days depending on what you decided for your gardening style and type! Remember your soil is your foundation and irrigation should be your first structure! Irrigation needs to be in place before you sow a single seed!



Lined writing area consisting of 20 horizontal lines for taking notes.

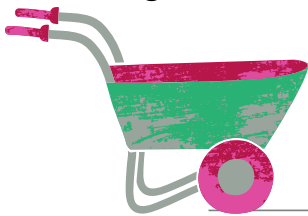


TRUST IN THE LORD
WITH ALL YOUR
HEART, AND DO NOT
LEAN ON YOUR OWN
UNDERSTANDING.

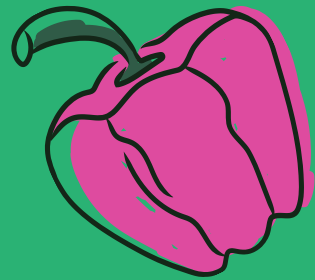
PROVERBS 3:5

STEP #11 - MAKE A SCHEDULE OF TASKS

As Christaian women, our days are full of caring for others. I have found that in my 15+ years of growing and maintaining my garden, you don't only need a drawn out plan but a schedule so that if you only have a few minutes to spend in the garden you have a list of things that need done. With my schedule gone are the days of standing at my garden gate wondering what I should be doing and totally miss that I should have been harvesting the peas! Your garden is going to take your time and energy. Having a list of tasks that need to be accomplished every week or every day like, weeding, watering, harvesting, and such you will be able to accomplish them quickly and your garden will never get ahead of you. Weeds grow best when you are busy with life!



A series of horizontal lines for writing a schedule of tasks, spanning the width of the page.

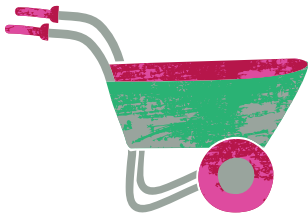


MAY HE GRANT
YOU YOUR
HEART'S DESIRE
AND FULFILL ALL
YOUR PLANS!

PSALMS 20:4

STEP #12 - PLANT!

You are now ready to plant! Follow your plan and remember to keep good records so you will know where everything is and to learn from your successes and failures. There are going to be both. God willing, you will have a garden and harvest of your Dreams!



CONCLUSION

You now know that starting a garden is about more than having a can do attitude and a healthy dose of God's help. It is about knowing the right steps.

And you now know those steps!

I have a question for you. Now that you know the 12 basic steps to starting your own garden, do you want a full explanation of how to expand on each step?

Do you want me to coach you through them with my 15+ years of experience?

Then check out my book "Your Dream Garden | A Garden Planning Guide" - by visiting my website!
www.redridgefarm.org

I am so glad we got to meet each other on this journey of growing food for our families, and please let me know when you have tasted your first home grown veggie.

Have a Blessed Day,

CRYSTAL MEDIATE

(A GOD DRIVEN GARDENER)

ABOUT



My Name is Crystal Mediate and I am a co-owner of Red Ridge Farm. I am also the author and founder of the Red Ridge Farm Blog and Online Courses. Here at Red Ridge Farm, our mission is to offer timeless education to all who want it. Yes, I know what it is like to try to build a garden and homestead on my own. I truly feel it is my calling to help others build not only a garden but food security, and to help put healthy food on every plate I can!

So Why am I doing this?

I feel God has called me to be a teacher. Gardening and homesteading are what I know! Growing food for my family has helped us in many ways, we have food security, we have healthy options for our plate, and we have saved money on our monthly grocery bill. I started growing food out of necessity. My husband and I always planned for me to be a stay at home mom, but that meant we would be a single income family. I felt that even though I was home I was not destined to be a Day Time Tv-aholic. I wanted to contribute! I found the best thing I could do was to reduce our monthly bills. Most of our bills were fixed but groceries were not. I thought if I could reduce this monthly bill, I could help. I also knew the answer was not in eating less. I researched coupons, meal planning, and so much more. What I found is that if we could grow our own food and grow it in a healthier manner, while also teaching our boys a good work ethic, I could save twice as much as any coupon could give us. That is when our first garden was born. Since then I have learned to grow our own chicken, turkey, pork, and how to preserve our harvest to last the whole year. I even raise dairy goats, so we have access to fresh milk, daily. Now I want to help others do the same.