

Easy Spring Vegetables Workshop Details and Tips

Background:

Gardening can feel like a large and overwhelming prospect to someone who is just starting off. This workshop is intended to provide an easy entry point to a fun, healthy activity that can feel intimidating to get started in. By starting beginner gardeners off with three vegetables that can be planted directly into the soil early in the season, you are providing an easy opportunity for success that can encourage further exploration.

Learning Objectives Expanded:

1. By the end of this workshop, participants will know how to prep a simple home garden bed.

There are many types of garden beds and ways to prepare them. However, any patch of soil without grass or weeds will work for growing these three vegetables. This objective is intended for participants to feel peace of mind around prepping the soil that they have for their garden. We want participants to know that there are many options, but that ultimately any starting point is a good point.

The easiest way to prep a garden is using a rototiller. It takes most of the difficult manual labor out of the equation. For participants that don't have access to a rototiller for their garden, you can also discuss pulling sod, broad forking, and other techniques for loosening the soil.

2. By the end of this workshop, participants will be able to direct seed kale, radishes, and peas.

Direct seeding can seem overwhelming and difficult if you have never done it before. This workshop is intended as an opportunity for participants to discover how easy direct seeding can be. I have intentionally chosen hardy vegetables that will enable participants to have a successful experience.

3. By the end of this workshop, participants will know how to water, weed, and harvest kale, radishes, and peas.

This last objective is important because good garden bed prep and good direct sowing technique are meaningless unless you take care of your seedlings. By discussing the process of watering, weeding, and harvesting, participants will have a full picture of what to expect in their garden.

Tips:

It is important to have a solid rain date plan. Checking the weather often and then communicating to your participants that the workshop will be happening either way is very important.

If you are hosting this workshop as a stand-alone event, it's of vital importance to reach out to all of your community partners when advertising the event. Don't assume that your community partners are on Facebook and will just see that the event is happening. Outreach and personal connections are essential for collaboration.