

# Vegetable Garden Care Recommendations

**WATER:** Most vegetables need a consistent, generous supply of water. Use drip irrigation, or use overhead sprinklers early in the day.

**SOIL:** Organic matter feeds vital soil organisms that feed plants, improves soil texture, moisture retention, and aeration. We recommend incorporating one or more of these organic amendments to a depth of 6-8":

**Home-made compost**

**A-1 EcoGro compost**

**EKO compost**

**Dairy Cow manure compost**

**Expanded Shale**

**FERTILIZER:** Colorado's clay soils generally contain many important minerals, but most vegetables require supplemental nutrients to produce well. Before planting, work in granular organic fertilizers to a depth of at least 4." Avoid high nitrogen in areas for growing root crops. For flower/fruit crops (broccoli, cauliflower, tomato, eggplant, pepper), we suggest side dressing with Age-Old Bloom or Fruit when the plants are beginning to make buds. Applying Compost Tea at intervals throughout the season helps plants maintain optimal health and nutrient uptake. We recommend:

**Alpha One**

**Age-Old Grow Cottonseed**

**Planters II (Rock Dust – trace minerals)**

**Alfalfa Meal**

**Tasty Tomato**

**Age-Old Fish & Seaweed**

**Kelp Meal**

## **HELPFUL PRODUCTS:**

**Legume Inoculant** – provides important beneficial microbes to enable peas and beans to fix nitrogen from the air

**Row Cover** – keeps seedbeds moist, protects plants from frost, wind, insect, and animal pests

**Hoop Wire** – strong, flexible wire supports for row cover or sheet plastic tunnels

**Solar Caps** – best “wall-o-water” protections from frost, enables early planting of tomatoes, peppers, etc., won’t topple

**Tomato Cages** – heavy duty, tall, sometimes colorful (!), keeps tomatoes off the ground, healthier, and easier to harvest

**Rain Gauge** – know how much water you need to apply, and see when you (or Mother Nature) have applied enough

**Radius Tools** – strong, high quality digging tools, designed for many years of comfortable use.