

# HOME GARDENING BASICS

Grow your garden, grow resilience, grow community



## START WITH WHAT YOU LOVE:

Grow what you enjoy eating — you'll naturally care for it better.



## UNDERSTAND OUR CLIMATE:

Los Angeles = Mediterranean

- Mild, rainy winters
- Hot, dry summers

→ Cool season (fall–spring): leafy greens, roots

→ Warm season (spring–summer): tomatoes, beans

You can grow food year-round with the right timing



## START SMALL + CLOSE TO HOME:

- Containers, raised beds, or small spaces
- Keep your garden near water and daily access
- Small, consistent care beats large, neglected gardens



## BUILD HEALTHY SOIL FIRST:

Healthy soil = healthy plants

Use:

- Quality potting mix (not native dirt)
- Compost or organic fertilizer
- Soil holds moisture, nutrients, and life
- Replenish with compost each planting cycle



## WHAT YOU NEED:

Container or garden bed

- Soil
- Sun (6–8 hours)
- Water
- Seeds
- Fertilizer (Organic)



## HOW SEEDS START (Germination):

Seeds need:

- Moisture
- Warmth
- Oxygen

Tips:

- Plant ~2× seed size deep
- Keep soil evenly moist
- Most sprout in 5–14 days



## TRANSPLANT + SPACING:

Don't overcrowd or waste space.

Simple guide:

- 1 plant → large crops (tomato, broccoli)
- 4 plants → medium (lettuce, chard)
- 9–16 plants → small (carrots, radish)



## WATER + SUN:

- 6–8 hours of sun daily
- Water deeply, not lightly
- Let soil dry slightly between watering
- Water soil, not leaves
- Morning watering is best



## CARE + MAINTENANCE:

Each week:

- Thin seedlings
- Remove weeds
- Check for pests
- Harvest regularly

Each Month:

- Apply Organic Fertilizer

Healthy gardens are maintained, not ignored!



## BUILD YOUR GARDEN OVER TIME:

- Start small, expand gradually
- Mix vegetables, herbs, flowers
- Support pollinators

Diversity builds resilience!



## KEEP LEARNING:

Find more at your library:

- Square Foot Gardening — Mel Bartholomew
- Sunset Western Garden Book
- The Vegetable Gardener's Bible — Edward Smith



Grow a little.  
Learn a lot.  
Keep going.