



**Illinois Extension**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

*Calhoun-Cass-Greene-Morgan-Scott Unit*

# March 2022

## Growing Great Vegetables

The last few years have seen a surge of gardeners taking up the trowel for the first time to try their hand at growing vegetables. To help new and beginning vegetables have a successful gardening season, unit horticulture educator Ken Johnson and four other extension educators in central Illinois offered a five-week webinar series covering the basics of vegetable gardening.

Session included:

- **Where will you Garden?:** discussed different ways vegetables can be grown, such as traditional garden plots, raised beds, salad tables, container gardening, growing vertically, and more.
- **Seed and Plant Choices and soils and fertilizers:** Participants learned about hardiness zones, frost and freeze dates, selecting transplants, starting plants from seed, soil testing, soil amendments, watering, and weeding.
- **Cool Season Vegetables:** Covered growing and harvesting cool-season vegetables like broccoli, cabbage, lettuce, and carrots.
- **Warm Season Vegetables:** Discussed how to grow warm-season crops such as peppers, tomatoes, squash, sweet corn, and more.
- **Diseases and Disorders:** Taught participants about common insects, diseases, and wildlife pests and how to manage them.



One hundred seventy-five people registered for the series from across Illinois and eight additional states. Participants indicated that they had increased their knowledge on the different topics covered by attending the series.

Participants also indicated that they would make changes to their gardening practices such as:

- Try a different style of gardening
- Pay closer attention to frost dates
- Increase the number and types of vegetables they grow
- Follow integrated pest management (IPM) practices.



For more information, contact Ken Johnson at [kjohnso@illinois.edu](mailto:kjohnso@illinois.edu) or call 217.243.7424