

***Yard and Garden – 08-26-2017 – Ted Griess/ Extension Horticulture Assistant***

Did you know that we could expect our first frost in the Kearney Area somewhere from October 1 to October 15? One might ask, “Why is he writing about frost?” After all, it is still summer, and fall is weeks away.

June 21 is traditionally considered the first day of summer. Since that date, I have noticed the days are getting shorter. Each day the sun has been rising a minute or so later in the morning and setting a minute or two earlier in the evening. Furthermore, cooling temperatures will soon accompany the shorter days. With cooler temperatures on the horizon, now is the perfect time to consider planting a fall garden. Many crops perform and taste better when grown in cooler temperatures. To achieve success with a fall garden, one should first know the arrival of the first expected frost. With October 7 being our approximate first expected frost date, hopefully we have 42 days remaining before Jack Frost makes his debut.

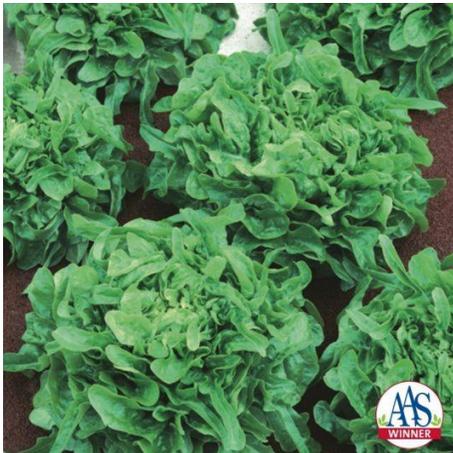
People often ask me two questions when considering a fall garden. Where is a good place to plant a fall garden, and what veggies do well — especially within the time remaining?

There is no need for a large space. When considering where to plant, my first suggestion is to look for available space in one’s existing garden. As warm season vegetable crops complete their productivity, available space opens up for cool season crops. One could also consider using the available space in one’s flower garden as well as flower containers. In areas where faded flowers once grew, starting veggies is a good choice.

Although transplant seedlings would be ideal to set out, they may not be readily available. Direct seed sowing is quick and easy. Plant the seeds directly into the soil. Once germinated, seedlings may require misting due to summer’s heat. When established, the plants will require no different care from spring-sown seeds.

With approximately 40 to 45 days remaining until frost, I have listed a few *All America Selection* vegetables to consider.

Radishes are rampant growers. The AAS varieties Roxanne and Rivoli are great choices. Sow seeds at weekly intervals. With only

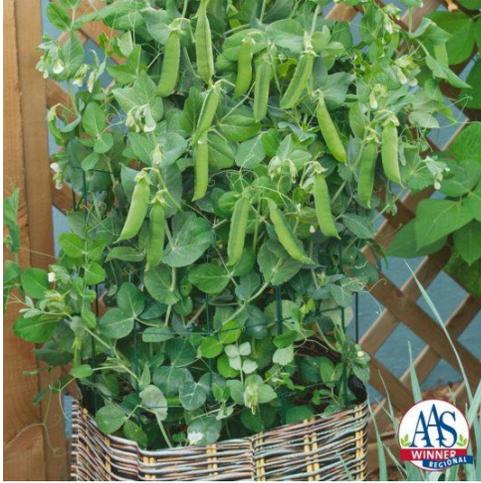


27 days to harvest from planting, one should be able to enjoy radishes throughout the fall season. Both varieties are uniformly bright red in color with beautiful creamy white interiors. Each are great tasting radishes with no pithiness even at larger sizes. These two varieties can easily be grown in pots that are at least 4 inches deep.



Lettuce, leaf and head types and mesclun mix, will all be about ready for their first cutting in thirty days. The AAS variety Sandy is an attractive oak-leaf type lettuce with a multitude of

sweet tasting, frilly, dark green leaves. Not just pretty and tasty, Sandy has exceptional disease resistance, especially to powdery mildew, and it is slow to bolt. Use Sandy as cut and come again baby leaf, or grow it to full maturity for loose salad heads. Sandy is typically not bitter when heat-stressed. When Sandy is planted in flowerpots and beds of cool season flowers, it adds an overall interesting texture.



With only 40 days needed to maturity, AAS Pea Patio Pride can be one last fall harvest of peas from the garden. This pea is wonderful when planted in containers and is ideal for succession planting yielding a consistent harvest over many weeks. This compact beauty produces sweet, uniform pods that are very tender when harvested early. Plant in patio containers with cool-season flowers for a beautiful combination ornamental and edible display.

For other suggested AAS fall gardening veggies to consider planting, check out the website at <http://all-americaelections.org/15-aas-winners-for-fall-gardening/>

Although frost is approximately 42 days away, that does not mean one should stop gardening. Now is the time to plant while time is still on your side.