

## 5 HELPFUL TIPS!

### To Create an Edible Fall Garden

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Did you know? California's semi-arid climate allows for year-round food production, making it one of the largest exporters of crops like strawberries, grapes, and lettuce. Why not grow your food at home and save water simultaneously? You don't need a large garden—many fruits and vegetables thrive in containers or pots, making it easy to grow fresh produce with minimal water use.

Fall is the perfect time to plant, allowing plants to establish strong, deep roots that help conserve moisture when the heat of summer arrives. Choose

drought-tolerant foods you love to eat, ensuring you enjoy the harvest and stay motivated to care for your garden. Many fall-planted vegetables, like Swiss chard, carrots, and herbs, require less water and can be harvested throughout the cooler months. Crops like garlic and onions can be planted in the fall, established using winter rains, and ready to eat in late spring, extending your food supply!

Whether starting small or ready to go all in, follow these water-wise tips to create your edible garden this fall.



1

#### FRESH FLAVORS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS.

Start your edible garden in your kitchen window with herbs that taste and smell great. Choose low-water-use herbs that complement your cooking, like oregano, basil, or sage, for your Italian nights or rosemary, thyme, and oregano to liven up your Mediterranean dishes. Fresh herbs make it easy to enhance any meal from your windowsill. For extra water savings, water your herbs with leftover cooking water once it's cooled!

2

#### SMALL SPACE, BIG HARVEST.

Containers are an excellent way to grow fruits and vegetables in a small space. Try planting root vegetables like carrots, radishes, or potatoes this fall. Whether growing food in containers or in the ground, ensure water gets directly to the plant root and is not wasted. Go one step further and participate in our [Spray-to-Drip Rebate program!](#)

3

#### ORCHARD TO PATIO.

Trees play a crucial role in reducing evaporation and enhancing moisture retention for your other plants. If you have a spacious yard, plant a fruit tree like avocado, pomegranate, or citrus. If space is limited, dwarf fruit trees like lime, peach, or apple, are perfect for patios or balconies. Check out the many other [benefits of trees!](#)

4

#### BEAUTY MEETS BOUNTY.

Edible ground covers like strawberries, creeping thyme, or oregano are a win-win for your garden. Cover crops help save water by locking in surface moisture and reducing evaporation while also providing decoration and functionality to your garden! Plant on a hillside to help keep the soil intact or in your yard to [replace your thirsty grass](#). [Receive a rebate](#) for installing a smart sprinkler timer or water-efficient sprinkler nozzles for additional year-round savings!

5

#### SECRETS TO A THRIVING GARDEN.

Location is critical to a water-efficient garden. Place plants where they get the right amount of sunlight without overexposure to reduce watering needs. Consider compost to improve soil quality and increase water retention. Mulch is also a great alternative to lock in moisture, cut down on evaporation, and prevent weeds. These simple steps will help your garden thrive while saving water all season.