

Starting Your Own Climate Victory Garden

The first step in creating your own climate victory garden is to look at what vegetables/herbs you eat on a regular basis that you could grow yourself. One of the main ways climate victory gardens reduce our carbon footprint is through a reduction in the trucking of produce so it's ideal to grow something you will consume or something that you could donate to local organizations. Also take into account the season you want to plant in as there are different growing seasons for different plants. In my case, I researched summer crops and decided to plant tomatoes and cucumbers.

The next step is to find a suitable location to plant your garden. This could be a section of lawn, a flower bed, or even a series of planters and pots. Prepare the area by weeding, turning over the soil, and even adding in new topsoil to help your plants grow. I calculated the amount of soil I needed to buy by measuring the planned out area and looking up the appropriate depth to plant my vegetables.



Next, plant your crops. Make sure to research the appropriate distance and depth that your crops should be in the ground. It may vary depending if you are planting seeds, plugs, or already established plants. It is generally a good idea to plant more than you think you'll need just in case some of your crops fail to grow. I planted two tomato plants that had been growing in pots as well as several cucumber seeds. After planting, make sure to adequately water your garden.



Maintenance is an important factor in the success of your garden. Make sure to check on your garden and weed and water it as needed. Remember that another main goal of climate victory

gardens is to help regenerate the soil health and store more carbon in the soil so in general stay away from pesticides and herbicides.



If you live in an area where herbivores are prevalent, you may want to consider some form of netting or other measure to prevent them from eating your hard work. As mentioned above, a container garden is a great way to do this. Planting in containers alone won't protect against critters, but it can allow you to plant in a more secure location. I put up a net to keep deer from munching on my vegetables. Below, a co-worker's container garden is growing snow peas, field greens, spinach, carrots, and basil. After only a few weeks, my tomato plants are fruiting!



The final step is to sit back and watch your garden grow! When the time comes, harvest your home grown crops and enjoy.

For more information and guidance on Climate Victory Gardens visit:

Master Gardeners of Howard County <https://extension.umd.edu/mg/locations/howard-county-master-gardeners>

Community Ecology Institute <https://www.communityecologyinstitute.org/>