

# National Garden Week

## Gardening Tips from Mike Bailey

(Penn State Erie County Master Gardener)



- Planning a garden
  - Find a good sunny spot and, airate the soil
  - Don't over do it - start small
  - Grow easy things you like
- Soil Prep
  - Don't dig soil while it wet
  - Check to see if you have clay soil or sandy soil to know what you might need to add
  - Add organic materials such as compost
- Buying seeds or prestared plants
  - For beginners, should buy some plants, especially tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants
  - Some vegetables do better with direct seeding into the ground (do some research on the plants you want to grow)
  - Take caution when starting seeds indoors
- Care of your Plants
  - Starting in early June is a good time to start - don't start too early (cold spells will kill your plants)
  - Water at the base of your plants - not over top
  - Weed as needed, and lightly cultivate your soil or mulch
- Insects
  - Know which plants are more likely to have insect problems
  - Have a general idea of the "insect season"
  - Plan a control method ahead of time
- Plant Diseases
  - Research which plants are more likely to get diseases
  - Have a general idea of the "Disease Season"
  - Plan a control method ahead of time

- Harvesting

- Some vegetables \_ your choice of harvesting
- Keep moist and harvest at maturity
- Harvesting too late usually results in reduced quality

