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# Top 10 Plants to Grow (and Actually Harvest)

A no-fluff starter guide for real East Texas gardeners

## Warm Weather Crops

Plant after the last frost—typically late March through early April. These heat-lovers thrive in our long summers—just be sure to give them room to stretch.

#### 1. Cherry Tomatoes

Reliable, sweet, and easy to grow in raised beds or pots. Trellis for best results.

#### 2. Zucchini

Fast-growing and abundant. Check daily once they start producing—those jokers get big fast, but taste best small. Watch for squash bugs.

#### 3. Okra

Thrives in East Texas heat. Harvest young for tender pods and keep it picked to encourage new growth.

#### 4. Bush Beans

Quick to sprout and steady producers. Perfect for succession planting through the season.

#### 5. Basil

Loves sunshine and warm nights. Pinch the tops to keep it from flowering too soon.

## Cool Weather Crops

Plant in early spring or late summer for the best harvests. They prefer cooler days and chilly nights. Some even sweeten up after a frost.

#### 6. Collard Greens

Tough, tasty, and dependable. The colder it gets, the better they taste.

#### 7. Radishes

Fast and beginner-friendly. Ready to harvest in under 30 days. Plus pickling them is something special.

#### 8. Loose-Leaf Lettuce

Great for spring and fall. Grows fast and doesn't mind tight spaces or containers.

#### 9. Broccoli

Give it space, cool temps, and fertilize with care. Best planted for fall.

#### 10. Chives

Hardy, flavorful, and perfect for sprinkling over just about anything. Comes back strong every year.

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# More Tips from The Garden Porch

for East Texas Gardeners



Don't Plant Too Early (or Too Late)

Trust us! East Texas weather can be tricky. Plant too early, a freeze will kill your plants. Plant too late, and the heat will stop them from thriving.



Water Deep, Not Daily.

Roots go where the water goes and you want strong roots that are deep. Train them to dig deep and your plants will be so much happier (and so will you).



Mulch heavy.

Keeps your soil cool in the summer and warm in the winter with mulch. Your plants will like it and and your weeds won't like it. Plus, it looks pretty and who doesn't like pretty things in the garden

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