

NEWS RELEASE

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Vegetable Gardening

My onions are up. I started them from seeds a few weeks ago. The goal is to have them ready for planting into the garden the second week of March. Onion plants or sets are commonly used for planting in the garden. Selecting plants may be preferred since they are known varieties suited for Kansas.

A vegetable garden will provide tasty food and a sense of accomplishment. The food that a garden provides makes a valuable contribution to a healthy diet. Salad crops like onions, lettuce, spinach, and radishes are a few of the first to be planted. These can easily be planted in the ground or in containers for an early season harvest.

These are the four crops that many of the area fourth graders plant in their school's garden. K-State Extension Master Gardeners and I will be assisting the youth in planting their salad gardens after their spring break. The desired harvest will occur right before summer break.

Riley County has several community gardens available for gardeners without space for gardening. The City of Riley, Meadowlark, Jardine at KSU and Manhattan have available plots. There will be a sign up on Monday, March 9th at 6:30 pm at UFM which is located at 1221 Thurston St in Manhattan for Manhattan's Community Garden.

A wonderful resource for all vegetable gardeners is the K-State Extension publication the "Kansas Garden Guide." This 195-page publication explains what is needed to be successful growing vegetables here. There are fifty-seven pages discussing individual crops from asparagus to watermelon. It can be viewed and downloaded for free from K-State Extension.

Other publications to consider are “Recommended Vegetable Varieties” and “Vegetable Garden Planting Guide.” Many more publications and videos are online at the K-State Horticulture Information Center.

You can find out more information on gardening by going to Riley County’s K-State Extension website at [www.riley.ksu.edu](http://www.riley.ksu.edu). And you may contact Gregg Eyestone at the Riley County office of K-State Extension by calling 537-6350 or stopping by 110 Courthouse Plaza in Manhattan or e-mail: [geyeston@ksu.edu](mailto:geyeston@ksu.edu)

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