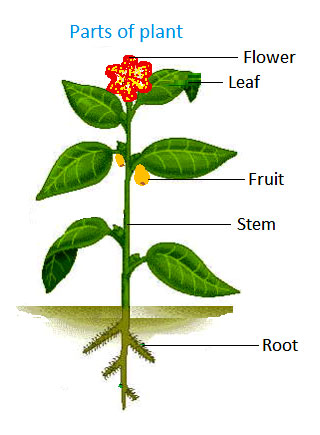
1. Brockton’s Growing Season Stats:
   1. Hardiness Zones 6b
      1. So lowest temperature crops will survive in are -5F to 0 degrees Fahrenheit
         * Keeping track of temperature is important
   2. Frost Dates:
      1. First: October 1-10.
      2. Last: May 1-10
   3. Heat Zone Days:
      1. Rave over 86 degrees
      2. Be mindful of super—hot days as it will require more water!
2. South-side of house
   1. South side of our house is parallel to it.
   2. Should take a look outside to scout for good spots.
3. Plants to grow:
   1. Tomatoes
   2. Cucumbers
   3. Chillies
   4. Beans
4. Soil:
   1. Planting outside. So I must get rid of the grass and turn the soil around—to mix it! Check if the soil is dry or not. IF it is, pour some water to moisten it. You can test to see if the soil is good enough if you can hold it with your hands and it retains a ball shape. I will go and buy some organic soil tomorrow.
5. When to grow:
   1. Given that we’re in the heel of spring, we plan on planting only vegetables that grow and hopefully harvest by the end of summer, early fall. Depending on how successful the harvest goes, we’ll consider growing for fall!
6. Plan for each key step:
   1. Getting Soil Ready:
      1. Tomorrow we must measure and determine the viability of 4x4, 5x5, 6x6, and 4x8 feet gardens.
      2. Then we need to clear the land/area
         * Cut grass/tree roots back from the area.
         * Remove any rocks, plastic, and any sort of things that shouldn’t be on the soil.
      3. Test soil acidity
         * If acidic/basic get compost to move the pH closer to neutral.
      4. This should be done a few days before we are ready to transplant
   2. Sowing:
      1. Buy a seed start kit to put the seeds in for indoor sowing
      2. Boil a container-sized amount of compost to take out some bacteria and moisten it.
      3. Spread seeds across compost
      4. Cover seed container to prevent light.
      5. Place seed in warm place.
      6. Once the seends are germinated, uncover the container
      7. Harden off seedlings
      8. Transplant seedlings
      9. Move seedlings to soil
   3. Tomatoes:
      1. Planting:
         * Make sure the location is receiving at least 6 hours of sunlight
         * Plant each transplant two feet apart
           1. Make sure the leaves are just above the soil.
           2. If the transplant’s stems are excessively long and straggly, burry 2/3 of the plant—assuming there’s lower branches. If there’s no lower branches, then just plant normally and hope it’s ok.
         * Place stakes next to the transplants. Doing this later will increase the chances of damaging the roots.
      2. Growing:
         * Water generously the first couple of days as until the roots are established \*A gallon maybe?\*.
           1. Try after 5/7 days?
           2. Water two inches into the grown
         * Mulch after 5 weeks into transplanting
         * If using stakes, prune plants by pinching off suckers (side stems) so that only a couple of branches are growing from each plant. The suckers grow between the branch and the main stem.
           1. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basal_shoot>
         * As the plants grow, trim all the lower leaves off the bottom 12 inches of the stem. This helps to keep diseases from spreading from the soil to foliage.
         * Plant Reference:
           1. 
      3. Harvest/Storage:
         * Leave your tomatoes on the vine as long as possible.
           1. If any fall off before they appear ripe, place them in a paper bag with the stem up and store them in a cool, dark place.
         * Never place tomatoes on a sunny windowsill to ripen.
         * The perfect tomato for picking will be firm and very red in color, regardless of size, with perhaps some yellow remaining around the stem.
         * If your tomato plant still has fruit when the first hard frost threatens, pull up the entire plant and hang it upside down in the basement or garage. Pick tomatoes as they ripen.
         * Never refrigerate fresh tomatoes.
   4. Chili
      1. Planting:
         * Very similar to tomatoes. The only exception is, chillies like the temperature really hot. So make sure the sunlight is hitting them at least 8-10 hours a day.
         * Plant at least 18 to 24 apart
         * Make sure soil is fertile, moist, and has compost.
           1. It’s possible to just use organic soil as your compost. Or horse manure.
         * Harden of for 7-10 days.
         * During indoor sowing, make sure temperature remains above a 64 degrees Fahrenheit.
         * Make stakes for chili too
      2. Growing:
         * Water a total of 1-2 inches per week.
         * Spread mulch around growing area
         * If it looks frail and stringy may be infected with a viruses which are spread by aphids and other small insects
           1. Aphids are small insects feed on plants. While feeding they secrete honeydrew which can lead to viruses in the plants.

See the bookmarked page for handling these criters.

* + 1. Harvesting:
       - Use pruning shears or a sharp knife to cut peppers from the plants, leaving a short stub of stem attached.
       - Harvested peppers that have just begun to change colour will often continue to ripen when kept in a warm room indoors for up to 3 days
  1. Beans (Bush)
     1. Planting:
        + grow more compactly (about two-feet tall) and do not require support.
        + Do not start seeds indoors; they may not survive transplanting
          1. But in our case we started with all seeds inside. Will move them outside soon.
        + Plant about 4 inches apart.
        + For a harvest that lasts all summer, sow beans every 2 weeks. If you’re going to be away, skip a planting.
     2. Growing:
        + Mulch soil to retain moisture
        + Water regularly
          1. ½ inch of water

I should clarify what ½ inch of water (or any inces of water mean)

Imagine drawing a 1ft x 1ft square around your plant, and that (x) inch (of water) is your height. What you get is a cubic rectangle mean to represent the volume of water to fill the plant w/. In other words for a bean, they only need 12inch x 12 inch x .5 inch = 72 inch =.311 gallons of water.

* + - * Bean plants show stress from low levels of water by their leaves displaying a grayish cast. Check and avoid this!
    1. Harvest/Storage
       - Look for firm and sizable beans that can be snapped
         1. Generally they’re as thick as a pencil
       - Pick green beans every day; the more you pick, the more beans grow.
       - Once you see the seeds inside bulging, green beans are past their peak and will taste tough
       - Snap or cut off the plant, do not tear the plant. Fresh beans should snap easily when broken.
       - Store beans in a moisture-proof, airtight container in the refrigerator
  1. Cucumbers (Straight Eight)
     1. After serious consideration we’ve decided not to grow ccucumbers. The reason for is because the Straight Eight is a vining plant. It needs space and a trellis to grow effectively. It’s possible to grow it next summer, but for now I think it’s best if we don’t grow it. I’ll replace this plant with a bean.