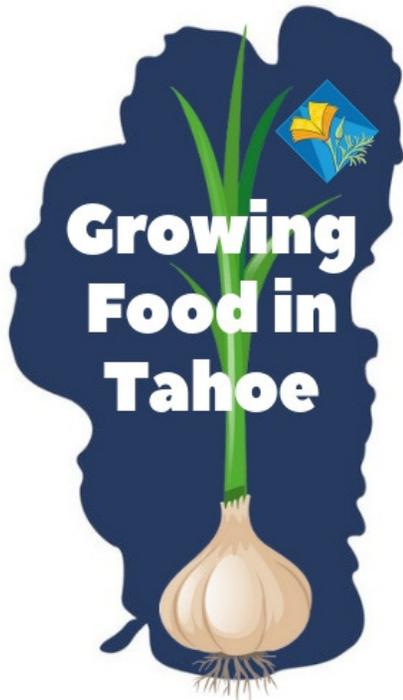


**Knowledge of
local climate,
soils and
seasons can
produce yummy
edibles.**



UCCE Master Gardeners of Lake Tahoe

530-314-8383

<http://ucanr.edu/growingfoodtahoe/>



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Veggie Gardening

Tips for growing food in Tahoe



A FEW THINGS TO CONSIDER...

- Tahoe has a short growing season.
- Cool evenings linger through the spring and you never know when we may get a cold snap.
- Plants can fail but that shouldn't stop you from trying.
- Birds and other animals can find your seedlings so plan accordingly.
- Make sure the outside soil temperature is warm enough for transplanting.
- Consider using a raised bed, hugel mound, greenhouse or other elevated/insulated structure for maximum success.

JUMP START YOUR SEASON INDOORS...

- **Seed Selection:** Select seeds with shorter days to maturity, determinate lengths and frost tolerant (if possible).
- **Growing Medium:** Seeds should be started in a very light soil mix.
- **Trays and Lids:** Many options are available (homemade or purchased). The goal is to ensure moisture and increase humidity during germination.
- **Heat Mat:** Can help keep soil warm during germination process. Once seedlings are up and roots have been established turn off mat.
- **Grow Lights:** Can speed up the process. If using, ensure the light is very close to the seeds and adjust according to growth. Light should be left on for about 16 hours a day when in use.
- **Transplanting Seedlings:** Once true leaves are established, this is the time to transplant seedling into a larger pot.
- **Hardening Off:** This step is critical to ensure success. Begin by placing your plant outdoors in the shade gradually moving into light. Also try to provide some sway/wind to the plant to increase stem strength.

