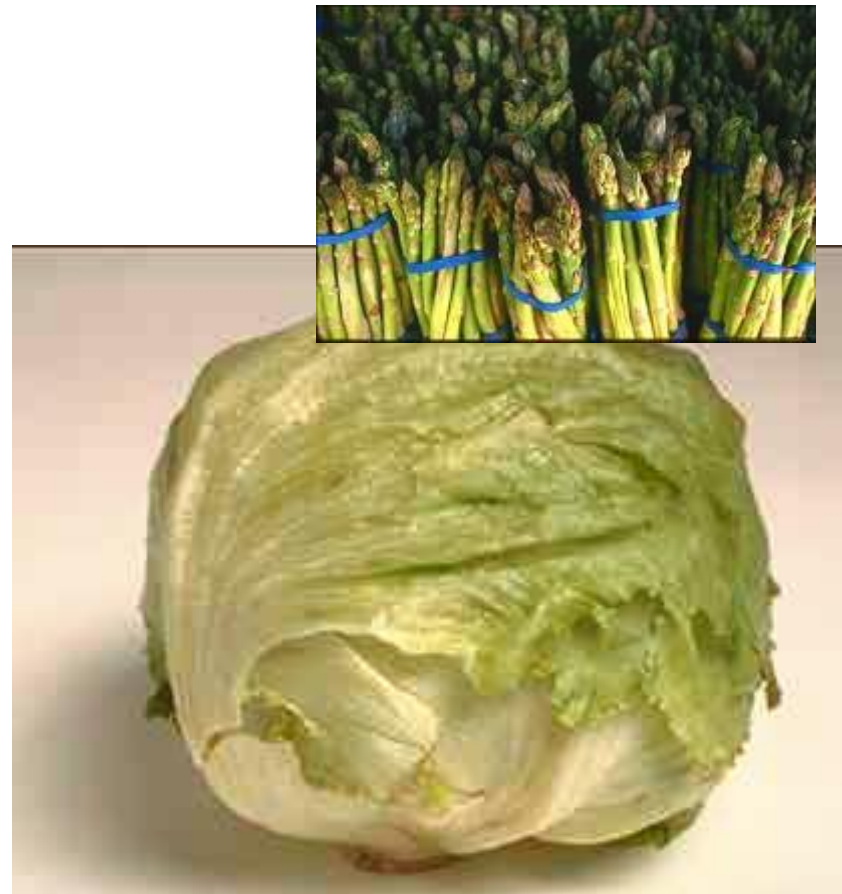


# Vegetable Gardening

## Chapter 8

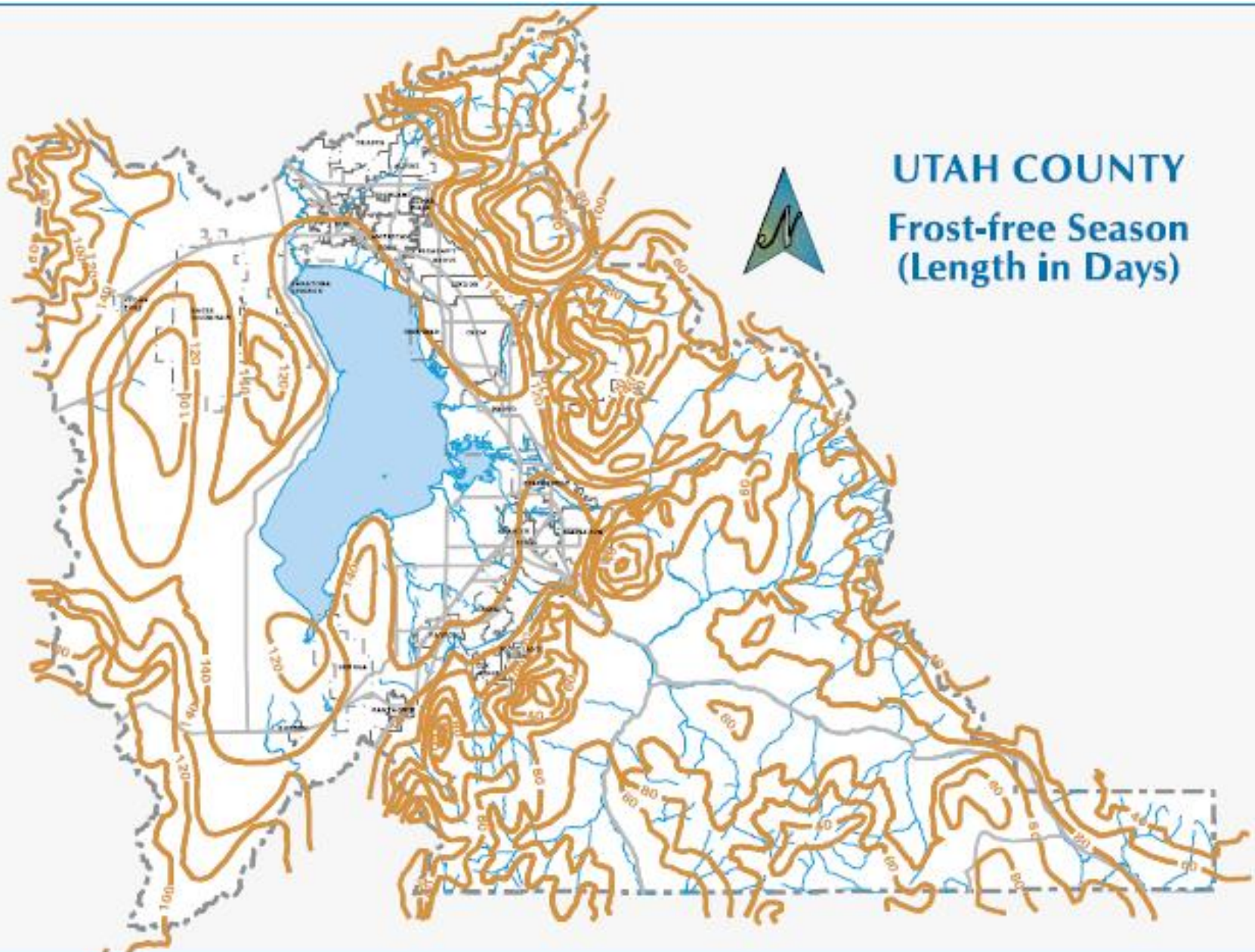
# Classification

- Vegetables are classified according to
  - Life cycle
    - Annual, perennial
  - When Planted
    - Warm season, cool season
  - Part Eaten
    - Root, fruit, leaf, other



# Temperate Climate Gardening

- Frost-free days
  - About 140 days in the valleys along Wasatch
- Days to maturity
- Fall gardening
  - Cool-season crops
  - Direct-seeded in summer
  - Adds to growing season



# UTAH COUNTY

## Frost-free Season (Length in Days)





# Cantaloupe (Muskmelon):



Summit Hybrid (78)

Earlidew (Honeydew 75)

Crenshaw (100)

Classic Hybrid (80)

Rocky Sweet (80)

Ambrosia (86)

# Sweet Corn:

- Standard:
  - Earlyvee (H 63)
  - Jubilee (H 82)
- Sugar Enhanced
  - Maple Sweet (H 68)
  - Sugar Buns (H 72)
  - Platinum Lady  
(H White 80)



# Garden Planning

- Sunny location
- Reasonably well-draining soil
- How big?
  - Go small for beginners
- Plan on paper
- Stagger sowing dates
  - Or plant some early, mid, and late varieties
- Block gardening (square-foot gardening)
  - Pre-plow era, England.
  - Useful in small areas and cities



# Seed purchases

- Be cautious about seed catalog claims
- Use published University data or local garden performance to help decide
- Buy fresh seed packs for current year, and use what you plant
- How do I deal with leftover seeds?

# Ornamental Veggies

- Edible vegetable types bred for color, habit, or interesting fruit
- Can still be eaten if desired, but will usually not be excellent for eating
- Cherry tomatoes, peppers, artichoke, kale, Swiss chard, cabbage, lettuce, melons and squash



Swiss Chard 'Bright Lights'



Pepper 'Mowhawk'



Tomato 'Chocolate Cherry'

# Preparing the garden

- Often tilling or some other soil prep is required
  - Relieve compaction
  - Fine soil bed for direct sowing
- Fertilizing
  - Can be incorporated into the soil before planting
- Weed control
  - Chemical
  - Physical

# Planting or sowing

- Seeds are planted in rows or 'hills'
  - Hill method is several seeds planted together and then thinned to 3-4 strongest plants
- Proper seed depth is necessary
  - 1-3x the diameter of seed is usually fine
- Heavy sowing can compensate for poor germination of old seeds
  - May required lots of thinning if most germinate

# Planting or sowing

- Intercropping
  - The process of planting a new crop in between or underneath an existing crop
    - Or planting 2 crops together at the same time
  - Fall crops such as lettuce or radish between beans
  - Often uses legumes with another crop such as cotton, grains, etc.



Silverleaf Desmodium (a legume) with Corn in Kenya



# Cover Crops

- Cover crops are those planted in fall
  - Green-manure crops are same thing but planted on a new site, not an existing garden
- Grow in fall, winter, early spring and are tilled under before spring planting
- Examples include alfalfa, clover, cowpea, soybean, vetch
  - N-fixing legumes



Cover crop of oats and peas in fall on vegetable farm.

[www.harmonyvalleyfarm.blogspot.com](http://www.harmonyvalleyfarm.blogspot.com)

# Planting Transplants

- Also called 'starts'
- Be aware of root-bound plants and those with foliage diseases or other problems
- Look for premature flowering (bolting)
  - Is a stress response
- Plant on cloudy day or in the evening
- Score root-bound plants or pull roots apart
- Water in thoroughly immediately after planting





# Maintenance

- Thinning
- Weeding
- Mulching
- Irrigation
- Fertilizing
- Training
- Crop rotation
- Frost protection

Using water containers  
for frost protection

