Some plants grow best in cool weather and are planted in early spring and fall. Others thrive in heat and are planted in late spring or summer. Try these hardy, easy-growing crops in your kitchen garden:

**Cool season crops**
- peas
- lettuce
- broccoli
- collards
- radishes
- onions

**Warm season crops**
- beans
- melons
- cucumbers
- peanuts
- peppers
- tomatoes

As you plant, mark your rows with sturdy labels so you remember what you planted. Invite your neighbors and friends over to help you plant and maintain the garden. Teach your family members to water the garden and pull weeds to keep your plants healthy.

**Helpful hint:** Different crops require different growing environments. For example, seeds, peas, and beans go directly into your garden soil, while other crops like tomatoes need to be started indoors and later transplanted outside as young plants.

Don’t give up! If you are having trouble with your garden, don’t get frustrated. Trial and error is normal in gardening – your garden will get better over time, year after year. If you have questions about insects, disease or plant nutrients, you can contact your local Cooperative Extension Agent. Each county has a Cooperative Extension Service where you can find useful gardening resources, including a local Extension Master Gardener volunteer to help with gardening challenges or lead training sessions.

**Homegrown Meals**
When your vegetables are ready for harvest, plan a family dinner! Consider sharing your extra harvest with neighborhood food pantries, kitchens and shelters.