



TIPS FOR

New Gardeners on the Palouse

CLIMATE

Moscow area is considered to be (Plant Hardiness) Zone 5 (-20° to -10°F,) but if your garden is at the bottom of a slope or exposed, use plants

- Average date of last frost of spring: May 13 (Earliest: April 6, 1936/Latest: July 3, 1962)
- Average date for first frost in fall: September 25 (Earliest: August 16, 1935/Latest: November 3, 1940)

SOIL

Most soils in Latah County consist of a silt loam topsoil, with silty clay loam sub-soil beneath. The topsoil is rich in most nutrients, but can be low in the following three: Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P), and Sulfur (S).

Soils with a **nitrogen deficiency** initially cause older leaves of plants to turn yellow (chlorosis) followed by whole plant chlorosis. **Phosphorus deficiencies** cause plant foliage to turn dark green and stunt growth. **Sulphur deficiencies** cause the leaf area in between the veins to turn yellow-green. New home developments or areas of recent construction have often had topsoil completely or partially removed, leaving only the subsoil.



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PLANTING

- The best time to plant is in spring and early fall. This allows plants time to grow strong roots before the heat of summer or freezing in the winter.
- Site selection for your plants is very important. Make sure you know how much sun and shade the plant requires and choose an appropriate location.
- Purchase plants that are hardy for your climatic zone. Not all plants that you can purchase at stores will necessarily grow well in this area.
- Group plants with the same water needs together. This helps eliminate over-watering and under-watering.
- Don't rototill your garden when the soil is wet. Waiting until the soil has dried out will eliminate damage to the soil structure.
- To test the moisture of your soil, grab a hand-ful and press it into a ball. If the soil stays in a ball, it is too wet. When it is crumbly when pressed together, it is ready to be tilled.

RESOURCES

- <http://www.extension.uidaho.edu/idahogardens/>
Resources for gardening, landscaping, and lawns
- <https://www.uidaho.edu/extension/publications>
Search, view, and download publications

Credits | commons.wikimedia.org

MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

Master Gardeners . . .

- Attend weekly workshops January thru May
- Expand knowledge in botany, composting, organic gardening, weeds, plant diseases, pruning, entomology, and much more
- Learn to research and answer gardening questions
- Enjoy community service opportunities
- Share knowledge with others
- Meet new friends

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

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