

# Vegetable Gardening in the Tri-Lakes

The climate on the Palmer Divide presents many challenges to the vegetable gardener. Our low humidity, intense sunlight, and extreme variations in temperature are definitely unique. Throw in our semi-arid climate, poor soil, and short growing season, and the challenge becomes even greater. This doesn't mean that you can't have a successful vegetable garden; it just means you have to learn to garden smarter. Hopefully we can help you to do that.

Our average last killing frost is 25 May, and average first killing frost is 1 Oct. But a freeze can happen as late as 7 June and as early as 17 September. Using season extenders such as frost cloth, hoop houses, cold frames, or 'walls of water' can give you the extra time your garden needs to grow more warm season crops that would otherwise not be possible. Choosing varieties that have a shorter maturity date or are 'cool season' crops, buying transplants, or starting seeds indoors, will all help ensure a more successful harvest.

One of our greatest challenges here is the wind. High winds are common, especially in the spring and fall, necessitating some sort of protection for young seedlings or plants that are weak-stemmed.



## McCord's Garden Center and Landscaping

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