

# URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

## How to grow vegetables without full sun:

Different types of plants require different lighting requirements - some plants are shade loving whereas others, usually vegetables, require full sun, which typically means more than six hours of sunlight a day. Although growing those sun-loving plants in full sun is the optimal scenario, some gardeners aren't blessed with a plot of land with portions that receive full sun. However, there are ways around growing vegetables which prefer full sun in other conditions.

### What to grow in partial shade:

If you don't have an adequate spot in your yard that receives full sun or there are items in the way blocking the sun's rays, such as buildings or trees, but you still want to grow vegetables, the first step would be to choose to grow some vegetables that don't require full sun. There are certain vegetables, such as arugula, beets, beans, broccoli, cauliflower, collard greens and more that can grow in partial sun, dappled shady areas or in an area that receives 3 to 6 hours of sun a day. Although no vegetable will grow in complete shade, if an area of your yard receives some sun during the day, it is possible to grow certain vegetables there. Keep in mind plants grown for their fruits, such as tomatoes or peppers, require more sun than plants grown for their roots or leaves, such as beets and greens. The latter is what you would want to plant in an area that may not receive full sun.

Sometimes, full sun can even cause bolting in plants, which is not good. That's why Brassicas, such as broccoli, do best in partial shade.



[Garden seeds available at ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)

### Using space wisely:

Other gardeners may have the benefit of certain areas of their yard that do receive full sun, but they can still benefit from implementing shade-tolerating vegetables. This allows them to reap the most benefits from the space that they can, and instead of only utilizing the full sun areas, they can also begin to utilize the partial shade areas as well. This will add quantity and diversity to any gardener's crop.

### Things to keep in mind:

It is good to know that even if you plant shade-tolerating plants in partial shade, the yield may not be as high as you would like it to be if they don't receive adequate sun. Also, when planting in partial shade, allow more space between your plants than suggested on the seed packet. This allows the sun to reach each plant better when it does shine, as sparse as that might be. Also be sure to utilize all-organic methods, as plants stressed by the lack of sun do not need chemicals to make their lives worse.



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