Summary
This is a resource designed to provide farmers with readily accessible, technical information and cultural practices for organic vegetable production without relying on advanced English literacy skills. This manual can be introduced in pre-season crop planning settings and subsequently used throughout the planting season. Though the practices and suggested planting dates presented are specific to our New England growing season, the icons can be easily modified to represent practices and timing suited to your farm and locale.

Who made this guide?
This teaching resource was developed by Cultivating Community and enhanced in collaboration with the Institute for Social and Economic Development (ISED). From 2015-2017, ISED partnered with refugee farmer training programs throughout the country to support the design of new and shareable teaching resources for culturally and linguistically diverse farmers. To access the whole list of newly developed teaching resources for refugee farmer training program, follow this link to New Entry’s ‘New American Resource Library’. For more in-depth explanations of the teaching approaches and activities used in these materials, you can refer to this Refugee Farmer Teaching Handbook.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Audience (TA Or Tot)</th>
<th>TA (Technical Assistance for farmers)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language and Literacy Level</td>
<td>Initial training on the manual and its uses is more easily completed with interpretation or moderate literacy skills, but is not necessary. Subsequent follow-up does not require advanced English skills.</td>
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<td>Farmer Experience</td>
<td>No experience necessary for majority of the content—some references to specific tools or techniques (e.g., black plastic, row cover) may be most suited to farmers with 1+ year of experience. Some of the more advanced/specialized content in the manual (e.g., market demand, days to maturity) will need more advice and/or more literacy.</td>
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| Pre-Requisites | • Basic Numeracy  
• Calendar familiarity  
• Specific vocabulary is helpful (rows, spacing, plastic.) |
| Region or Climate | Any (materials will need to be adapted) |
| Program Structure | Any |
| Season | Any |
| Time | 30 minutes for introductory workshop |
| Staff and Interpreters | Interpretation preferred for introductory workshop |
| Additional Supplies Needed | Computer and projector |
| Background Material | None |

**TEACHING MATERIALS INCLUDED**

1. “Crop Manual” PowerPoint

2. “How to Use NASAP Crop Manual” PowerPoint
CORE SKILLS IN THIS LESSON

- Season identification and description
- Seed spacing
- How much to plant
- Months and days naming
- Rows and beds formation
- Succession planting
- Weed management (black plastic and row cover usage)
- Mulch
- Appropriate crops for tunnels

SUGGESTED TEACHING METHODS

*Realia*

- Provide physical examples of the materials referenced in the activity. Having samples of black plastic and row cover makes it easy to communicate which crops benefit from their usage. Supplying actual seeds of the crops in question allows for practice in spacing out seeds and easier demonstrations of row/bed culture and in-row spacing.

*Oral drills*

- Quizzing participants in their ability to search out individual pieces of information in the manual was effective. Asking questions like “When is the first day Arugula can be planted?” or “How far apart do eggplants go?” allows individual farmers to experience digging through the material to find answers to common questions.

TEACHING TIPS AND VARIATIONS

- Involving farmers in the editing and generation of this manual can be an effective way to build trust and familiarity in the final document. Asking a group of more experienced farmers to identify which crops need black plastic, for example, and going through the pages of the manual to update it accordingly, could be a more collaborative way of adapting the document.

- This resource can be paired with other crop planning documents or activities to generate a robust crop plan or seed order. We use this as a reference in the spring to identify which crops are planted in frequent succession or high densities in forming our initial seed order, but it could be expanded upon to build out crop maps or (with more accurate pricing and demand information) revenue projections.