
Planting Guide and Calendar



September

WHAT TO PLANT:

Arugula, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, cilantro, chard, collards, garlic, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, onions, radishes

READY FOR HARVEST:

Beans, beets, blueberries, broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cucumbers, corn, eggplant, greens, herbs, peppers, potatoes, squash (winter and summer), tomatoes, watermelons

GARDEN TASKS:

- Make room for winter crops by harvesting summer crops (that are ready for harvesting).
- Build hoops for plastic covering during heavy frost. (With harsh frost or snow the plants will need to be covered for protection).
- If there are no edible crops try planting cover crops.
- Build or feed compost system.

LESSONS:

- Introduce students to the garden by having a scavenger hunt or by doing art projects where they draw what they see
- Create time to establish the garden as something the students are a part of by planting seeds or starts at the beginning of the year
- Look at different plant parts and their function.
 - Use this time to try (taste test) the different things growing in your garden from the summer.

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October

WHAT TO PLANT:

Arugula, barley, broccoli, chard, cilantro, crimson,* clover*, fava beans, garlic, lettuce, onion, winter wheat*, field peas, winter peas

READY FOR HARVEST:

Broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, carrots, greens, herbs, peppers, potatoes, pumpkins, winter squash, tomatoes, watermelons

GARDEN TASKS:

- Pull out summer crops as they finish up.
- Plant Cover Crops (earlier is better)
- Save seeds from the garden for next year.
- Build or Feed compost system.
- Plant trees and shrubs!

LESSONS:

- Focus on seeds. Talk about seed dispersal and save seeds from the garden. Have the kids go around and try to find different types.
- Look at underground plant parts and discuss the difference between annuals and perennials and their differing survival methods.
- Get ready to start growing plants in the class over winter

*cover crop

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Preparing you garden for winter!

- As soon as the weather becomes cool, plant new trees and shrubs.
- Once temperatures start to dip toward the frost point, cover your vegetables with old sheets or light blankets on cold nights to extend the season a bit longer
- Leave root crops such as beets, parsnips, carrots, and garlic for harvesting through early winter. Cover them with a heavy layer of mulch and mark the rows with tall stakes so that you can find them in snow
- Pull up tomato, squash, pea, and bean plants. If they're disease-free, compost them. If any are diseased, either burn them or discard separately. Pull up and put away the stakes.
- Before the ground gets too hard, remove all weeds and debris to eliminate overwintering sites for insects and disease.
- Once the garden soil is exposed, add a layer of compost, leaves, manure (if you have it), and garden lime (if you need it). Gently till into the soil.
- Another option is to sow cover crops such as winter rye to improve your soil quality and prevent weed seeds from taking root.

·If some areas have hopelessly gone to weeds, cover them with black plastic and leave it in place over the winter and into the spring to kill sprouting seeds.

·Refer to seed packets for specifics regarding the variety.

*Transplant means to plant inside and then once mature, plant in the soil outside

NOVEMBER

WHAT TO PLANT:

Barley, chard, crimson,* clover*, fava beans, kale, lettuce, winter wheat*, field peas, winter peas

READY FOR HARVEST:

Brussel sprouts, cabbage, carrots,

GARDEN TASKS:

- Finish adding compost/leaves to all beds in the garden for the winter
- Turn the compost and add a Nitrogen source
- Turn off watering systems before the first frost
- Put away hoses and wrap irrigation lines if necessary

LESSONS:

- Focus on Soil: Composition, Building, and Erosion
- Work with the compost to learn about decomposers in the garden
- Have a harvest day with students and make a dish to share
- Look at soil Nutrients, use test kits to learn more about your own garden soil and what it may need for the spring
- Please refer to seed packets for specifics regarding the variety.
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DECEMBER/JANUARY

GARDEN TASKS:

- Make sure that your beds (especially ground beds) are properly protected from any erosion with leaves, mulch or other organic materials
- Utilize this time to do any major cleanup or build projects around the garden area.
- Haul away any debris that is too large/woody for the compost, build paths, turn the compost pile to keep it warm and generally make the garden space tidy before it is under heavy use again in the spring.
- Around the last week of January you can begin starting certain crops indoors to be planted under a cloche in February.

LESSONS:

- Begin testing soil temperature as a group- make predictions and create a chart that explains the temperature changes (soil should be tested about 3" beneath the surface)
- Winter is a great time to have students design and construct any cloches that may cover entire beds
- Sprouting experiments indoors are a great way to keep students connected with gardening during the winter months. Try various types of seeds and make predictions as to which ones will grow fastest, biggest, germinate first etc.
- Try different areas of your garden and have students hypothesize why some areas may be warmer/cooler than others.
- Create spring planting calendars or garden maps.
- Go on walks through the garden or around the school and have students make observations about the effects of changing weather on the landscape. Have students do a journaling exercise focusing on adjectives to describe their observations.
- * Look at curriculum for more winter activities.
- *Try building and using a cold frame or other winter farming practices. sc

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FEBRUARY

WHAT TO PLANT:

Beets, carrots, lettuce, mustard, peas, radishes

GARDEN TASKS:

- If using a cloche or if you are covering with plastic, you can begin planting beets, carrots, lettuce, radish and mustard greens
- Prune Fruit Trees and Shrubs mid-month
- Turn and begin screening compost for spring use
- Build Cloches, cold frames and greenhouses with students and start seeds

LESSONS:

- Construct trellises for peas as a group.
- Try a few methods Begin plant needs experiments with light and temperature.
- Before going back into the garden review garden rules and what the students learned from fall semester.
- *Cover all crops on colder nights

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MARCH

WHAT TO PLANT:

Arugula, broccoli, carrots, cilantro, collards, kale, leeks, lettuce, mustard, parsley, radishes, spinach

GARDEN TASKS:

- Turn in cover-crops before they start to flower
- Uncover beds and add compost as you start to plant
- Begin weeding heavily in garden
- Check soil drainage
- Sometimes it is a good idea to cover beds with a cloche or plastic to dry them out enough for planting. Only if they are water logged.
- Mid- month start tomatoes, peppers, onions and basil indoors for transplanting in late May.
- Can start another round of radishes and peas for later harvest.

LESSONS:

- Start seed indoors and outdoors make hypothesis regarding growth time and measure plants weekly and make a growth chart
- Talk about decomposers in the compost pile and their needs

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APRIL

WHAT TO PLANT:

Amaranth, beets, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, chard, kohlrabi, lettuce, oregano, parsley, peas, turnips

GARDEN TASKS:

- Seed a second round of carrots and radishes for prolonged harvest
- Turn compost and add coffee grounds or other Nitrogen source
- Begin Slug and Snail patrol to prevent them from breeding in the garden

LESSONS:

- Discuss Organic Gardening and the Environment.
- Tie in weeds and vegetative propagation
- Focus on Worms: Try experiments with worm bins, or digging in a 1'x1' area to estimate the number of worms in your garden

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MAY

WHAT TO PLANT:

Beans (bush and pole), corn, dill, eggplant, onions, parsnips, peppers, potatoes, squash (winter and summer), tomatoes

READY FOR HARVEST:

Asparagus, lettuce, kale, peas, strawberries

GARDEN TASKS:

- Check your irrigation system, fix any breaks, set it up early so it is ready to go when the rain stops
- Make a summer maintenance plan and recruit families/individuals to care for the garden over the summer. This may seem early but have this done by the beginning of June.
- Seed/transplant more arugula, beets, broccoli, carrots, cilantro, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, onions, radish and spinach for summer harvest.
- Leave space for Basil around the tomato plants if they are direct seeded
- Plan for possible summer camp

LESSONS:

- Study Flowers and Pollination.
- Plant pollinator attracting flowers in the garden.
- Look at Insects in the garden and decide whether they are beneficial or non-beneficial

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JUNE

WHAT TO PLANT:

Basil, cucumber, gourds, kale, lemon cucumber, pumpkin, rutabaga, sunflower, watermelon

READY FOR HARVEST:

Asparagus, herbs, lettuce, kale, peas, strawberries

GARDEN TASKS:

- Make sure you have all of the summer weeks covered by families or volunteers
- Plant annual flowers to attract pollinators to summer crops
- Plant a last round of carrots for fall harvest (They do very well when planted with tomatoes)
- Plant another round of beans for prolonged harvest
- Plan for possible summer camp

LESSONS:

- Have a harvest celebration in the garden!
- Invite volunteers and parents to share in a dish made by your students
- Send summer crops home with students –
- Have students start seeds at school and take them home for caring over the summer

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JULY

WHAT TO PLANT:

Arugula, beans, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, chard, corn, dill, kale, leeks, mustard, peas

READY FOR HARVEST:

Asparagus, beans, beets, blueberries, broccoli, cabbage, celery, carrots, cucumbers, eggplant, herbs, lettuce, kale, peas, squash (summer), strawberries, tomatoes

GARDEN TASKS:

- Plant crops for fall harvest with students
- Check on watering systems * Make sure to water often
- Fix beds and general upkeep and maintenance
- Weed and do compost care
- Harvest!

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WHAT WE HARVESTED:

GARDEN TASKS:

- Plant crops for fall harvest with students
- Check on watering systems * Make sure to water often
- Fix beds and general upkeep and maintenance
- Weed and do compost care
- Harvest!

AUGUST

WHAT TO PLANT:

Beets, beans (bush), broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, carrots, chard, kale, lettuce, peas, radishes, spinach, turnips

READY FOR HARVEST:

Asparagus, beans, beets, blueberries, broccoli, cabbage, celery, carrots, corn, cucumbers, eggplant, herbs, lettuce, kale, peas, peppers, potatoes, squash (summer and winter), strawberries, tomatoes

GARDEN TASKS:

- Work on new build projects for fall and winter crop
 - Cold frame
 - Design area for fruit trees
 - Do you need to increase deer protection?
- Summer Camp
- Paperwork: report on lessons, successes or challenges in gardens. Recap on summer programming
- Plant seeds inside for fall crops

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 - Cold frame
 - Design area for fruit trees
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