



Kate's Kitchen Garden Planner

Campaign for School Gardening



September

Sow fast-growing lettuce and summer radish for crops this autumn. You can also sow tasty winter salad leaves and crunchy winter radish.

Plant sets of overwintering onions. These are special varieties, many from Japan, and will be ready earlier than spring-planted ones.

Water lettuce and radish in dry spells.

Harvest carrots, pumpkins and any onions or shallots that were not ready in July. Also pick climbing French beans grown for drying and gather the first leeks and chard.



Composting garden waste goes on all year

October

Prepare the ground for carrots, leeks, onions and potatoes. These will go in next spring, and all will enjoy a load of compost, well-rotted manure or other bulky, organic matter.

Sow hardy varieties of peas, to overwinter for an early crop next year.

Protect lettuce and summer radish with fleece or cloches until harvested. Move tubs of potatoes to a well-lit, frost-free place.

Harvest the last summer vegetables – lettuce, radish and pumpkins. Also leeks, and your first winter salad leaves.



Everyone can help to build raised beds

November

Prepare the ground for carrots, leeks, onions and potatoes if you didn't get it done last month. Protect chard, overwintering peas and winter radish using cloches or fleece until March.

Harvest chard, leeks, salad leaves and the first winter radish.

Build raised beds, construct new paths and carry out any maintenance before the winter.

Clean up your pots, trays, labels, canes and so on ready for next season.



Chris Collins with student gardeners



December

Finish preparing the ground for early spring sowings and plantings.

Harvest chard, leeks, salad leaves and winter radish.

Plan the layout of your plot for next year. Order seeds, seed potatoes, onion sets and shallot sets.

Check your tool kit and see what needs cleaning, sharpening, mending or replacing.



Leeks make delicious soup



Using a fork to lift leeks as they mature

January

Harvest chard, leeks, salad leaves and winter radish, plus new potatoes from tubs.

Protect soil from heavy rain, and warm it up, by covering with polythene (black or clear). Hold it down with bricks, pieces of wood or giant staples made from coathanger wire.

Cover weedy areas with black plastic, old carpet or other materials that exclude light. This kills the weeds and makes work easier in spring.



February

Prepare the ground for chard, sown in April, by digging in compost or well-rotted manure.

Sow lettuce in pots and keep them under cover. Sow early peas indoors in pots, modules or lengths of guttering, or sow outdoors in mild areas.

Protect outdoor sowings with fleece or cloches for a month or two.

Sprout early potatoes ready to plant next month.

Harvest chard, leeks, salad leaves and winter radish.



Picking hardy salad leaves



March

Prepare the ground for French beans by digging in compost or well-rotted manure. Add fertiliser where you'll be growing chard and potatoes.

Sow early carrots, early peas, lettuce and radish outdoors. If the soil is still too cold or wet wait until next month, or start lettuce and peas off in pots indoors. Sow leeks in pots under cover.

Plant onion and shallot sets, and early potatoes.

Protect outdoor sowings and early potatoes for a month or two, using fleece or cloches.

Support young pea plants as soon as they start growing with twiggy sticks or netting.

Harvest the last overwintered vegetables – chard, leeks, winter radishes and salad leaves.



Introducing garden tools

April

Prepare the ground for pumpkins by incorporating plenty of bulky, organic material.

Sow early carrots, chard, and radish outdoors. Sow leeks, lettuce, and peas indoors or out, if not done last month. Sow French beans and pumpkins in pots and keep in a warm place indoors.

Plant onion and shallot sets, and early potatoes, if not done last month. Plant out lettuce seedlings once they have a few leaves.

Protect outdoor sowings, and early potatoes, with fleece or cloches as long as frost is likely.

Earth up early potatoes as they shoot to protect them from frost.



Starting pumpkins off in pots

May

Sow more lettuce and radish outdoors for a continuous crop. Sow French beans and pumpkins outdoors in milder areas, indoors in pots if it is still chilly at night. Sow chard outdoors if not already done.

Thin out seedlings sown outdoors if necessary.

Plant out seedlings from earlier sowings once large enough.

Protect French beans, early potatoes and pumpkins if frost threatens.

Earth up early potatoes.



Pulling the first radishes

June

Sow Pumpkins outdoors if not already done. Sow early carrots to crop in September, and winter salad leaves.

Thin out seedlings sown outdoors, if necessary.

Plant New potatoes in large tubs, plant out seedlings from earlier sowings once they are large enough.

Water newly planted seedlings, salads, and vegetables about to crop, in dry spells.

Harvest lettuce, radish and your first carrots, overwintering onions, spring-sown peas, and early potatoes.



Preparing to plant potatoes

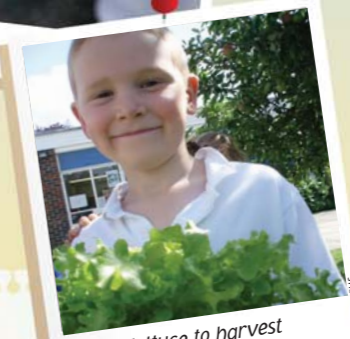
July

Sow green manure on bare areas of ground. Thin out seedlings sown outdoors if necessary.

Water newly planted seedlings, salads, and vegetables about to crop, in dry spells.

Mulch between plants, making sure the soil is damp first. This will help keep down the weeds and keep in soil moisture through the holidays.

Harvest French beans, carrots, lettuce, overwintering onions, peas, early potatoes and radish. Harvest shallots if ready, or leave them until September.



Lots of lettuce to harvest this month

August

Water salad leaves and pumpkins in dry spells if possible. Carrots, chard, leeks and onions should look after themselves.

Visit your nearest allotments, community garden or public garden. Talk to the gardeners to find out which varieties do well in your area, and pick up other local tips.

Check out supermarkets in Europe, and markets in other parts of the world, for cheap or interesting vegetable seeds.



Garden visits can provide new ideas

Visit the website for more resources on vegetable growing, including lesson plans.