Knowing what to expect in your Learning Garden throughout the year can help your Garden Team get an early jump on planning for Planting and Harvesting Days, while also aiding you in finding the best times for teaching opportunities. Feel free to use this calendar as a working document to record planting days, harvest days, weather information and how teachers are using the Learning Garden.

The Planting and Task Overview Calendar is meant to provide your Garden Team, and your wider network of Learning Garden participants, with a generalized plan of action for planting, harvesting, and teaching opportunities. You will find various tasks, special events, and growing information throughout. The hope is that this calendar will aid you in planning and aligning the growing season and specific tasks, and opportunities associated with it, with your academic year.

You will find links to growing guides, videos, tracking sheets, and general gardening information throughout this calendar.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calendar Color Key</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Green</td>
<td>Planting and Plants in Your Garden</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Overwintering</td>
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<td>Red</td>
<td>Planning and Important Events to think about</td>
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<td>Navy</td>
<td>Watering and tasks centered around watering</td>
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<td>Brown</td>
<td>Soil and Amending</td>
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<td>Yellow</td>
<td>Harvest times and tasks/events around Harvesting</td>
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# JANUARY

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<tr>
<th>What’s Happening in Your Garden</th>
<th>Specific Garden Tasks</th>
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| • If you are overwintering crops this year, your Garden is currently growing (albeit slowly).  
• Your crops right now will most likely include Spinach, Garlic, and possibly even Onions  
• If you are not overwintering crops, your soil should be /mulched (compost, leaves, or straw) and simply sitting for the winter | • Your Garden is self-sufficient at this point and will require little to no attention during these months  
• Watering occasionally can help spur growth and ensure Spring success  
• It is always helpful to take a walk around the garden once in a while to make sure all is well |

**Important Planning Notes:**  
*TKC Educators often hold a **SPRING PLANNING AND PLANTING workshop during the month of February or March**, so keep a look out for your invitation!*  
*These are great months to start planning for resources you might need (Compost, Tools, Watering Kits, hoses, etc). The Growing season is right around the corner!*  

**Helpful Links:**  
* [LINK TO CLASSROOM RESOURCES](#), [LINK TO VIDEO LIBRARY](#), [LINK TO ANNUAL COLORADO GROWING PLAN](#)  

**Other Notes:**  
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### FEBRUARY

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<tr>
<th>What’s Happening in Your Garden</th>
<th>Specific Garden Tasks</th>
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</table>
| - If you are overwintering crops this year, your Garden is currently growing (albeit slowly).  
- Your crops right now will most likely include Spinach, Garlic, and possibly even Onions  
- If you are not overwintering crops, your soil should be covered/mulched (compost, straw, leaves) and simply sitting for the winter | - Your Garden is self-sufficient at this point and will require little to no attention during these months  
- It is always helpful to take a walk around the garden once in a while to make sure all is well |

**Important Planning Notes:**
*These are great months to start planning for resources you might need (Compost, Tools, Watering Kits, hoses, etc). The Growing season is right around the corner!  
*Your Garden Educator may be reconnecting with your team to assist in planning and preparing for Spring Planting!*

**Helpful Links:**
[LINK TO CLASSROOM RESOURCES], [LINK TO VIDEO LIBRARY], [LINK TO ANNUAL COLORADO GROWING PLAN]

**Other Notes:**
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January

February 2018

1
Garden is overwintering with Spinach, Garlic, and Onions
**MARCH**

### What’s Happening in Your Garden

- If you are overwintering crops this year, your Garden is currently growing (a bit faster now).
- Your crops right now will most likely include Spinach, Garlic, and possibly even Onions.
- Your crops should start growing a bit faster, allowing for an assessment of whether or not an early Spring Spinach harvest (possibly as early as mid-April) will be possible.
- If you are not overwintering crops, your soil should be covered/mulched (compost, straw, or leaves) and simply sitting for the winter.

### Specific Garden Tasks

- Your Garden is pretty self-sufficient at this point, but note that March can also be dry. Check your soil once a week by pushing your finger an inch down to check moisture. If your soil feels dry, water thoroughly during warmest part of the day.
- Assess overwintered crops to determine the amount of replanting that will be necessary in early Spring and to see if a harvest is possible: this is a great time to check-in with your Garden Educator.
- If soil is around 45 degrees, you can plant peas to get a jump on Spring.

### Important Planning Notes

*Strategize with the Garden Team to reach out to parents and staff about the upcoming Gardening Season, asking for support for the upcoming planting day/s during the first two weeks of April.*

*This is a good time to start collecting and making your “Upcycled Watering Kit.”*

*Watering will be coming into the fold once more, start your Watering Calendar sign-ups prior to your planting days so watering can be implemented as soon as possible following your planting.*

### Helpful Links

[LINK TO CLASSROOM RESOURCES], [LINK TO VIDEO LIBRARY], [LINK TO ANNUAL COLORADO GROWING PLAN]

### Notes

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<td><strong>1</strong> Meet with your Garden Team to organize Planting Day/s to take place within the first two weeks of April.</td>
<td><strong>2</strong> Start outreach efforts for watering sign-ups (you can use THIS calendar as your watering calendar!)</td>
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<td><strong>15</strong> If weather allows, Peas can be planted as early as this date</td>
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<td><strong>26</strong> This is possibly the earliest that you can plant. Be sure to check the forecast if you decide to plant this early</td>
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### APRIL

#### What’s Happening in Your Garden
- Overwintered crops are starting to grow quickly. Spinach and Peas may be able to be harvested
- Soil preparation should be done and/or should be completed shortly
- Your Garden will still be growing Spinach, Garlic, and Onions.
- Radishes and Lettuce will be planted in the remainder of the Garden
- You are growing what is called a 45 day Salad Garden

#### Specific Garden Tasks
- Fluffing and prepping soil and digging in ½ of the peas (If it hasn’t been done)
- Possible harvesting some overwintered crops if they are ready
- Planting Lettuce and Radishes
- Setting up and implementing a Watering Rotation
- Daily watering in the Garden unless rain is forecast
- Regularly check on seeds and seedlings
- Fertilize with All-Purpose fertilizer during last week of April

### Important Planning Notes:
*Organize your planting and harvest days to fit your school. The benefit of having flexibility is that you can stretch out the length of time over which the planting and harvests take place.
*Start planning out how you would like to use your harvest/s of Peas and Spinach. Note that these are cut and come again greens, so don’t pull plant. For reference, you can check out the TKC Learning Garden channel on YouTube for information on your Spring Garden.

**Teaching:** [LINK TO CLASSROOM RESOURCES], [LINK TO VIDEO LIBRARY], [LINK TO ANNUAL COLORADO GROWING PLAN]

### Notes:

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Possible harvest date if you have overwintered crops such as Spinach

Watering rotation should start immediately following planting, and continue daily unless it rains

Fertilize Gardens with All Purpose Vegetable Garden Fertilizer (strongly recommend organic fertilizer)

Notes:
**May**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What’s Happening in Your Garden</th>
<th>Specific Garden Tasks</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Radishes, Lettuce, Peas, Garlic, Spinach, Perennial Herbs, and Strawberries are growing.</td>
<td>• Continue watering regularly. Be aware of the relationship between increasing</td>
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<td>• Your plants may start showing signs of bolting going to seed, making your salad greens</td>
<td>temperatures, and increasing water needs.</td>
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<td>taste bitter and your radishes get a woody texture.</td>
<td>• Harvest Radishes, Lettuce, Peas, and Spinach toward end of month or early June</td>
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<td>• If using grounds water, your water should be turned on this month</td>
<td>• Track and Report Harvests</td>
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<td>• Following harvest, dig in remaining plants and MULCH with compost (apply a 1 to 2</td>
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<td>inch thick layer of compost on surface of garden, do NOT dig compost in)</td>
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**Important Planning Notes:**

*Organize your planting and harvest days to fit your school. The benefit of having flexibility is that you can stretch out the length of time over which the planting and harvests take place.

*Start planning out how you would like to use your harvest/s of Peas and Spinach. Note that these are cut and come again greens, so don’t pull the plants. For reference, you can check out the TKC Learning Garden channel for information on your Spring Garden.

*Start organizing your Summer Watering Strategy; recruit parent volunteers for Summer watering

**Teaching:**

[LINK TO CLASSROOM RESOURCES], [LINK TO VIDEO LIBRARY], [LINK TO ANNUAL COLORADO GROWING PLAN]

**Notes:**

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<td>Check crops regularly and Schedule a Garden Team meeting to discuss harvest and Summer Watering</td>
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<td>Average Last Frost Date</td>
<td>Possible Harvest Date from this time on</td>
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<td>Weather permitting, you may be able to start planting Summer crops (must be no chance of frost)</td>
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June

**What’s Happening in Your Garden**

- **Summer Themes:** Salsa Garden, 3 Sisters Garden, Plant Parts Garden, Root Veggie Garden, Garlic, Perennial Herbs, and Strawberries are growing.
- Should be no risk of frost until Fall
- Adapt watering to increasing temperatures. Effective watering will keep your plants happy and stress free.
- Keep an eye out for pests: Flea Beetles, Aphids, Caterpillars, and others can indicate stressed plants.

**Specific Garden Tasks**

- Watering
- Check for bugs
- Weeding: Weed every bed two times a month through June while your summer crops get established. This will help them out compete other weeds before they become a problem.
- If using Drip Irrigation, check every couple of days for leaks/breakages

**Important Planning Notes:**
*Your entire management strategy may have to change for the summer months. **Be sure to recruit and train a summer watering team before school ends!**

**Helpful Links:**
LINK TO CLASSROOM RESOURCES, LINK TO VIDEO LIBRARY, LINK TO ANNUAL COLORADO GROWING PLAN

**Notes:**

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## July

### What’s Happening in Your Garden
- **Summer Themes:** Salsa Garden, 3 Sisters Garden, Plant Parts Garden, Root Veggie Garden, Garlic, Perennial Herbs, and Strawberries are growing.
- Adapt watering to increasing temperatures. Effective watering will keep your plants happy and stress free.
- Keep an eye out for pests: Flea Beetles, Aphids, Caterpillars, and others can indicate stressed plants.

### Specific Garden Tasks
- **Watering:** Water roots of established plants for the best results
- **Check for bugs**
- **Continue Weeding**
- If using Drip Irrigation system, have volunteers check for leaks/breakages
- Garden should start bearing some fruit. Kale leaves may be able to be harvested sparingly

### Important Planning Notes:
*You may want to start thinking about the upcoming transition to school/teacher/staff watering

### Helpful Links:
- LINK TO CLASSROOM RESOURCES
- LINK TO VIDEO LIBRARY
- LINK TO ANNUAL COLORADO GROWING PLAN

### Notes:

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See Growing Garlic video. Garlic may be ready to harvest at this point, or in the next couple of weeks.
August

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What’s Happening in Your Garden</th>
<th>Specific Garden Tasks</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Summer Themes: Salsa Garden, 3 Sisters Garden, Plant Parts Garden, Root Veggie Garden, Carrots, Perennial Herbs, and Strawberries are growing.</td>
<td>• Watering</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Classes are starting back up and watering will transition back to the school, so plan early to create a rotating watering schedule.</td>
<td>• Check for bugs</td>
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<tr>
<td>• If you haven’t grown a Summer Garden, you can plant a 45 day salad garden – the same garden as the Spring</td>
<td>• Continue Weeding</td>
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<td>• Pinch back flowers on basil (see link)</td>
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<td>• Harvest fruit when it’s ripe (cherry tomatoes, zucchini, strawberries, peppers) (See Harvest Guides)</td>
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Important Planning Notes:
*Check in with your Summer Garden Team to make sure things are going well: Garden is getting watered, food is getting harvested, plants are looking healthy, irrigation is working, etc.

*Transition watering back into a rotating teacher/staff rotating schedule

Helpful Links: [LINK TO CLASSROOM RESOURCES], [LINK TO VIDEO LIBRARY], [LINK TO ANNUAL COLORADO GROWING PLAN]

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Great time to start planning a Garden Team meeting and Harvest Day event

If you haven't grown a Summer Garden, this is a great time to start planning and planting a 45 Day Salad Garden – same as in the Spring

Notes:
**September**

### What’s Happening in Your Garden
- **Summer Themes:** Salsa Garden, 3 Sisters Garden, Plant Parts Garden, Root Veggie Garden, Garlic, Perennial Herbs, and Strawberries are growing.
- Garden Teams/Classrooms are harvesting and watering regularly
- Plants are growing and fruiting heavily, as we are hitting the peak of harvest season

### Specific Garden Tasks
- Watering
- Check for bugs, take photo and e-mail Garden Educator
- Continue Weeding occasionally
- Harvest ripe fruit regularly to ensure the best production and healthier plants

**Important Planning Notes:**
*Meet with Garden Team to discuss opportunities and strategies around harvesting, including how you would like to use the food (cafeteria, classroom recipes, sending home with students, charity, farmers market, etc.?)*

**Helpful Links:** [LINK TO CLASSROOM RESOURCES], [LINK TO VIDEO LIBRARY], [LINK TO ANNUAL COLORADO GROWING PLAN]

**Notes:**

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<td></td>
<td>Plan Garden Team meeting to review Summer, back to school garden agenda, plans for harvest, school watering</td>
<td>Harvest throughout the month as fruit and grass ripens</td>
<td>Open dates for Planting a 45 Day Salad Garden: Same as Spring Plans</td>
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More Calendars from WinCalendar: [2018](#), [Excel Calendar](#), [Calendar PDF](#), [Holiday Calendar](#)
## October

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<tr>
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</table>
| • Summer Themes: Salsa Garden, 3 Sisters Garden, Plant Parts Garden, Root Veggie Garden, Garlic, Perennial Herbs, and Strawberries are growing  
• Harvest season is coming to an end but garden should still be highly productive  
• If growing a 45 Day Salad Garden, you should be able to harvest it this month  
• First Frost: Possible Oct. 1-15  
• Tearing out Summer crops and planting crops to overwinter (Winterizing your Garden) | • Watering  
• Check for bugs  
• Harvest and tear out Summer crops to plant Overwintering Crops (Spinach, Peas, Garlic, Onions, Cilantro) **Winterize Your Garden.**  
• Cut herbs back and bundle them to dry for storage: **DO NOT PULL HERB PLANTS OR STRAWBERRIES** |

### Important Planning Notes:
*Schedule a day to “Winterize Your Garden.” TKC will be hosting a workshop in early October to teach Garden Teams how to accomplish this*

### Helpful Links:
[LINK TO CLASSROOM RESOURCES], [LINK TO VIDEO LIBRARY], [LINK TO ANNUAL COLORADO GROWING PLAN]

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<td>Garden teams should start planning to schedule a “Winterize Your Garden” Day with volunteers or students</td>
<td>Harvesting</td>
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<td>Average First Frost Date (90% probability)</td>
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<td>Great time to Winterize your Learning Garden</td>
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<td>After Harvesting, dig in compost (should be on garden surface acting as mulch through the Summer)</td>
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Notes:
November

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>• Overwintering crops <em>(Spinach, Onions, Peas, Cilantro, Garlic)</em> may start to sprout, with the onions and garlic taking the longest to come up</td>
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<td>• More precipitation and less heat will make for a more relaxed watering regimen</td>
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<td>• Water new seeds daily until plants have started to sprout.</td>
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<td>• After plants have sprouted to about two inches tall you may only need to water once every three or four days depending on how warm/dry the weather has been</td>
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**Important Planning Notes:**
*This is a great time to sit down with your Garden Team to assess how the growing season went, including successes, challenges, and changes for next year.*
*Contact your Garden Educators to set up a meeting for assessing and planning for next season*

**Helpful Links:**
[LINK TO CLASSROOM RESOURCES], [LINK TO VIDEO LIBRARY], [LINK TO ANNUAL COLORADO GROWING PLAN]

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Water accordingly, depending on weather. If weather is dry for more than two days.
### December

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<td>• Garden is resting. Not much is happening aside from very slow growing Winter crops</td>
<td>• There is nothing you are required to do at this point.</td>
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**Important Planning Notes:**

**Teaching:**
* Indoor garden based lessons about Soil, Life Cycles, Decomposition
* Instructivities: Decomposition Viewers, Root Viewing Cups, Soil In a Jar Test

**Notes:**

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