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.

### Calendar Color Key

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Color</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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<tr>
<td>Red</td>
<td>Planning and Important Events to think about</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Watering and tasks centered around watering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brown</td>
<td>Soil and Amending</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yellow</td>
<td>Harvest times and tasks/events around Harvesting</td>
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# JANUARY

## What’s Happening in Your Garden
- If you are overwintering crops this year, your Garden is currently growing (albeit slowly).
- Your crops right now will most likely include **Spinach, Garlic, Kale** 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

## Specific Garden Tasks
- Your Garden is self sufficient at this point and will require little to no attention during these months
- Watering occasionally on the warmest days 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 Tips
*Big Green Garden 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
**REGIONAL MINI SITE, GARDEN SKILLS, CLASSROOM RESOURCES, VIDEO LIBRARY, ANNUAL COLORADO GROWING PLAN**

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Notes:

Garden is overwintering – possibly Garlic, Spinach, Kale
FEBRUARY

What’s Happening in Your Garden

• If you are overwintering crops this year, your Garden is currently growing (albeit slowly).

• Your crops right now will most likely include Spinach, Garlic, Kale 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.

Specific Garden Tasks

• Your Garden is self sufficient at this point and will require little to no attention during these months.

• Watering occasionally on the warmest days 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 Tips
*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
REGIONAL MINI SITE, GARDEN SKILLS, CLASSROOM RESOURCES, VIDEO LIBRARY, ANNUAL COLORADO GROWING PLAN

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1
Garden is overwintering with spinach, garlic, kale, and possibly onions

Notes:
### MARCH

<table>
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<tr>
<th>What’s Happening in Your Garden</th>
<th>Specific Garden Tasks</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>•</strong> If you are overwintering crops this year, your Garden is currently growing (a bit faster now).</td>
<td><strong>•</strong> 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.</td>
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<td><strong>•</strong> Your crops right now will most likely include <strong>spinach</strong>, <strong>garlic</strong>, <strong>kale</strong> and possibly even <strong>onions</strong></td>
<td><strong>•</strong> 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</td>
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<td><strong>•</strong> Your crops should start or continue growing, allowing for an assessment of whether or not an early spring <strong>spinach</strong> harvest (possibly as early as mid April) will be possible</td>
<td><strong>•</strong> If soil is around 45 degrees, you can plant <strong>peas</strong> to get a jump on Spring</td>
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<td><strong>•</strong> If you are not overwintering crops, your soil should be covered/mulched (compost, straw, or leaves) and simply sitting for the winter</td>
<td><strong>•</strong> Connect and test all water equipment</td>
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### Important Planning Tips
*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
[REGIONAL MINI SITE](#), [GARDEN SKILLS](#), [CLASSROOM RESOURCES](#), [VIDEO LIBRARY](#), [ANNUAL COLORADO GROWING PLAN](#)

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<td>Meet with your Garden Team to organize Planting Days (usually occurs within the first two weeks of April)</td>
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<td>Start outreach efforts for watering sign-ups (you can use THIS calendar as your watering calendar)</td>
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<td>If weather allows, Peas can be planted as early as this date</td>
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Created with WinCalendar Calendar Maker
# APRIL

## What’s Happening in Your Garden

- Overwintered crops are starting to grow quickly. Harvest when ready for continued spring harvests.
- Overwintered crops include: **Spinach**, **Garlic**, **Kale** and **Onions**.
- Spring crops include: **Radishes** and **Lettuce** will be planted in the remainder of the Garden.
- You are growing what is called a 45 day **Salad Garden**.
- Before planting spring crops, prepare the soil (remove weeds, amend soil).

## Specific Garden Tasks

- Harvest overwintered crops if they are ready to be picked (spinach & kale)
- Plant spring crops in open garden spaces (spaces without overwintered crops)
- Recruit for and post a rotating watering schedule
- Water your spring plantings daily. Overwintered crops will need less water.
- Regularly check on seeds and seedlings
- Fertilize with a full spectrum 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 Big Green Learning Garden channel on YouTube for information on your Spring Garden.

## Helpful Links

- **REGIONAL MINI SITE**, **CLASSROOM RESOURCES**, **VIDEO LIBRARY**, **ANNUAL COLORADO GROWING PLAN**

## Notes

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Created with WinCalendar Calendar Maker
1 Planting Window to get a harvest before school gets out. Planting 45 day Salad Garden: peas, spinach, kale, lettuce, radishes

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12 Possibly the last day to plant to get a good harvest during school

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

16 Possible harvest date if you have overwintered crops such as spinach

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24 Fertilize gardens with a nitrogen rich, organic fertilizer

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Notes:
### What’s Happening in Your Garden

- Radishes, lettuce, peas, garlic, spinach, kale, perennial herbs, and strawberries are growing.
- Your plants may start showing signs of bolting/go to seed, making your salad greens taste bitter and your radishes get a woody texture.
- If using grounds water, your water should be turned on this month.

### Specific Garden Tasks

- Continue watering regularly. Be aware of the relationship between increasing temperatures, and increasing water needs.
- Harvest radishes, lettuce, peas, and spinach toward end of month or early June.
- Track and report harvests.
- Following harvest, dig in remaining plants and MULCH with compost (apply a 1 to 2 inch thick layer of compost on surface of garden, do NOT dig compost in).

### Important Planning Tips

* 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 Big Green VIDEO LIBRARY on your Spring Garden.
* Start organizing your Summer Watering Strategy; recruit parent volunteers for Summer watering.

### Helpful Links

- REGIONAL MINI SITE, GARDEN SKILLS, CLASSROOM RESOURCES, VIDEO LIBRARY, ANNUAL COLORADO GROWING PLAN

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**Notes:**
- Good time to start outreach for recruiting parents for Summer Watering
- Check crops regularly and schedule a Garden Team meeting to discuss harvest and Summer watering
- Average Last Frost Date
- Possible Harvest Dates from this time on
- REMEMBER TO TRACK YOUR HARVEST!
- Weather permitting, you may be able to start planting Summer crops (must be no chance of frost)
## 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

- Water
- Check for bugs - Leaves may be eaten, or insect eggs may be found on or under leaves.
- Weed: 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 Tips

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!** Your Garden Educator is always happy to do a parent watering orientation in the garden!

### Helpful Links

- REGIONAL MINI SITE
- GARDEN SKILLS
- CLASSROOM RESOURCES
- VIDEO LIBRARY
- ANNUAL COLORADO GROWING PLAN

### Notes

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Notes:
# 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
- Water: Be sure to directly water the soil. Watering leaves may grow fungus.
- 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

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

### Helpful Links
- [REGIONAL MINI SITE](#), [GARDEN SKILLS](#), [CLASSROOM RESOURCES](#), [VIDEO LIBRARY](#), [ANNUAL COLORADO GROWING PLAN](#)

### Notes

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Garlic may be ready to harvest at this point or within the next couple of weeks.
### August

#### What's Happening in Your Garden

- **Summer Themes:** Salsa Garden, 3 Sisters Garden, Plant Parts Garden, Root Veggie Garden, carrots, perennial herbs, and strawberries are growing.

- Classes are starting back up and watering will transition back to the school, so plan early to create a rotating watering schedule.

- If you haven’t grown a Summer Garden, you can plant a **45 day salad garden** – the same garden as the Spring

#### Specific Garden Tasks

- Water
- Check for bugs
- Continue weeding
- Pinch back flowers on basil (see link)
- Harvest fruit when it’s ripe (cherry tomatoes, zucchini, strawberries, peppers)(See Harvest Guides)

#### Important Planning Tips

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

- [REGIONAL MINI SITE](#), [GARDEN SKILLS](#), [CLASSROOM RESOURCES](#), [VIDEO LIBRARY](#), [ANNUAL COLORADO GROWING PLAN](#)

#### Notes

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August 2019

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

21

27 If you haven’t grown a Summer Garden, this is a great time to start planning and planting a 45 day salad garden – same plan as in the Spring
# 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

- Water

- Check for bugs, take photo and email Garden Educator

- Continue Weeding occasionally

- Harvest ripe fruit regularly to ensure the best production and healthier plants

## Important Planning Tips

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

- REGIONAL MINI SITE, GARDEN SKILLS, CLASSROOM RESOURCES, VIDEO LIBRARY, COLORADO GROWING PLAN.

## Notes

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<td>Notes:</td>
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</table>
## October

### What’s Happening in Your Garden

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summer Themes: Salsa Garden, 3 Sisters Garden, Plant Parts Garden, Root Veggie Garden, Perennial Herbs, and strawberries are growing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harvest season is coming to an end but garden should still be highly productive</td>
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<tr>
<td>If growing a 45 Day Salad Garden, you should be able to harvest it this month</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Frost: Possible bu Oct. 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tear out summer crops and plant crops to overwinter (winterize your garden)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Specific Garden Tasks

| Water |
| Check for bugs |
| Harvest and tear out Summer crops to plant Overwintering Crops (spinach, garlic, onions, cilantro) |
| Cut herbs back and bundle them to dry for storage: DO NOT PULL HERB PLANTS OR STRAWBERRIES |

### Important Planning Tips

Schedule a day to “Winterize Your Garden.” Big Green will be hosting a workshop in early October to teach Garden Teams how to accomplish this

### Helpful Links

REGIONAL MINI SITE, GARDEN SKILLS, CLASSROOM RESOURCES, VIDEO LIBRARY, ANNUAL COLORADO GROWING PLAN

### Notes

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>1</strong> Garden teams should start planning to schedule a “Winterize Your Garden” day with volunteers or students</td>
<td><strong>2</strong> Harvesting</td>
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<td><strong>15</strong></td>
<td><strong>16</strong> Average first frost date (90% probability)</td>
<td><strong>17</strong></td>
<td><strong>18</strong> Great time to Winterize Learning Garden</td>
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<td><strong>20</strong></td>
<td><strong>21</strong></td>
<td><strong>22</strong> After Harvesting, dig in compost (should be on garden surface acting as mulch through the Summer)</td>
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<td>Notes:</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
# November

## What’s Happening in Your Garden

- Overwintering crops **(Spinach, Onions, Peas, Cilantro, Garlic)** may start to sprout, with the onions and garlic taking the longest to come up
- More precipitation and less heat will make for a more relaxed watering regimen

## Specific Garden Tasks

- Water new seeds daily until plants have started to sprout.
- 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

## Important Planning Tips

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

- REGIONAL MINI SITE, GARDEN SKILLS, CLASSROOM RESOURCES, VIDEO LIBRARY, ANNUAL COLORADO GROWING PLAN

## Notes

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Water accordingly, depending on weather. If weather is dry for more than two days you may need to water.
## December

### What’s Happening in Your Garden
- Garden is resting. Not much is happening aside from very slow growing Winter crops

### Specific Garden Tasks
- There is nothing you are required to do at this point.

### Important Planning Tips

### Helpful Links
- [REGIONAL MINI SITE](#),
  - *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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