

Burlington School Gardens – seasonal timeline for basic garden tasks

prepared by Friends of Burlington Gardens, www.burlingtongardens.org

April	May	June	July	August	Sept - Oct
<p>Turn over raised beds and mix in fresh compost and top soil.</p> <p>Plant onion sets and peas in single rows and seeds of spinach, lettuce, beets, chard, and carrots in wide rows.</p> <p>Make row labels using tongue depressors and permanent markers.</p> <p>When planning raised beds, it's best to avoid planting crops that may easily overwhelm the bed or be vandalized including pumpkins, watermelons, giant tomatoes, sunflowers, winter squash, and sweet corn.</p>	<p>Use watering cans to keep seeded areas and transplants evenly moist. Avoid over-watering or under-watering. Water in the morning or evening during long summer days, not in the heat of the day. Water at the base of plants.</p> <p>Plant seed potatoes in rows spaced two feet apart.</p> <p>Dig up and divide perennials to sell at a Plant Sale to raise funds for your school garden.</p> <p>Plan for twice weekly School Garden Club meetings to care for the garden beds and distribute produce.</p>	<p>Mulch between plants with hay or grass clippings.</p> <p>Hand pick and remove insect pests that are damaging plants. Please do not use chemical pesticides. Use scissors to remove diseased or dead foliage.</p> <p>Plant basil from seed or transplants.</p> <p>Plant sweet potato slips.</p> <p>Transplant broccoli plants 1-1/2 feet apart.</p> <p>Plant cucumbers and summer squash by seeds or transplants.</p> <p>Plant bean seeds in single rows; space rows two feet apart.</p> <p>Transplant tomato plants 2-1/2 feet apart in beds.</p> <p>Transplant peppers and eggplants two feet apart in beds.</p> <p>Thin seedlings of root crops to allow plants room to grow.</p> <p>Harvest scallions and spring greens.</p>	<p>Stake or cage tomatoes; prune suckers from tomato plants.</p> <p>Cultivate the soil between rows and hill up soil around plants.</p> <p>Harvest main heads of broccoli; pick side shoots before they flower.</p> <p>Pick summer squash when they are young and tender.</p> <p>Gather summer crops as they mature. Pick beans every two to three days.</p> <p>Harvest carrots and beets selectively.</p>	<p>Pick larger tomatoes as they first start to ripen.</p> <p>Harvest basil to make pesto.</p> <p>Sow seeds of spinach, beets, bok choy, and mesclun in wide rows for fall greens.</p>	<p>Dig sweet potatoes.</p> <p>Dig potatoes after the plants have died.</p> <p>Harvest fall greens to serve at school community dinners.</p> <p>After the first frost, pull up the dead plants and compost.</p> <p>Harvest chard and kale continuously.</p>