

*Caring for school
gardens in summer*

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- **Grow low maintenance plants.**
- **Attract volunteers.**
- **Schedule some garden events in the summer.**
- **Prepare the garden for fall.**

Preparing for Low Maintenance





Preparing for Summer

- **Water the bed really well for days in advance**
- **Use a kelp fertilizer bath and soak no less than 5 minutes and NO MORE THAN 10 minutes. Do not water again.**
- **Pick off the leaves on the part of the stem that will be planted.**
- **Plant the tomato very deep or lie the stem down and bury it.**
- **Mulch like crazy to keep the moisture in the soil and the bed free of weeds.**



Another option is wild flowers, which you can match to dry or wet conditions, full or part sun, etc.

Visit www.americanmeadows.com for more information about wild flowers.



Attracting Volunteers: Picking Rights

- Set up a couple of dates before the school year ends to provide instruction and demonstrate how to move the hoses around and water. Do not assume people know how to water.
- **POST RULES AND SCHEDULE FOR WATERING.** Stress accountability.
- Keep weeding to a minimum with mulch.



Scheduling and Guidelines

- Decide ahead how the produce will be shared.
- Before people go their separate ways, **set up a few work days during the course of the summer** to do jobs beyond watering and harvesting.



Garden Events

- **Combine work and pleasure**



Garden Events

- **Offer home gardening lessons to the community**



Garden Events

- **Share the wealth**



Garden Events

- **Make food**



Preparing for Fall

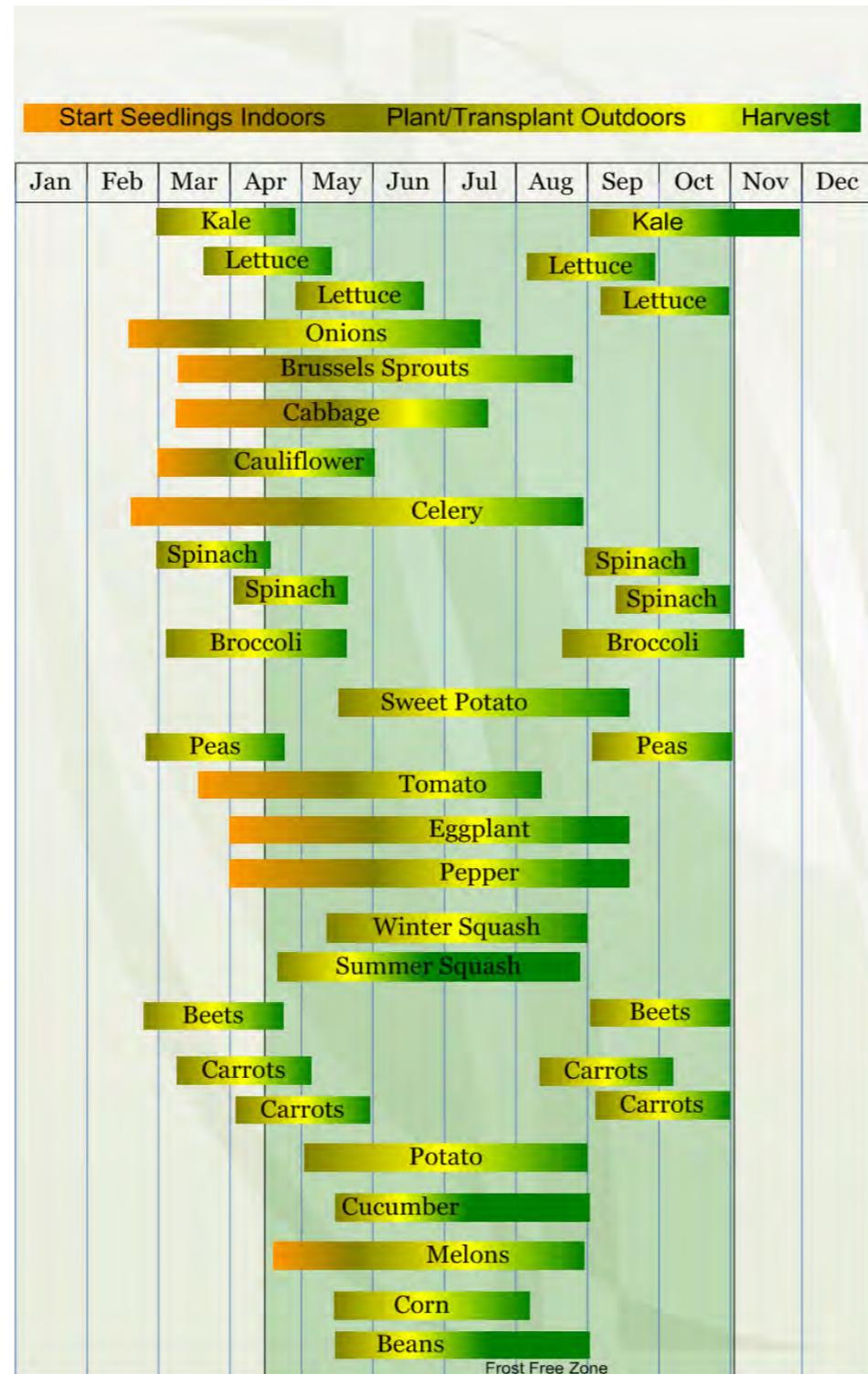


You can wait until August to prepare the garden for fall (and enjoy your vacation) or you can...

- Water and mulch the beds or plant a cover crop.
- Plant crops according to when you want to harvest in the fall.



Find out what to plant and when online.



In early fall, plan to plant a few things that mature quickly and tolerate cooler weather...such as peas, lettuce and kale.



edWeb



- If you are a teacher, please join this online school gardening community on edWeb. This is a way for educators, gardeners, parents and community volunteers to come together to share information and resources on how to start and maintain a school garden, integrate it into the curriculum and the life of a school, and troubleshoot garden challenges.
- <http://www.edweb.net/schoolgardens/>

Contact



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