

		Lower Columbia School Gardens - Monthly Planting Guide						
		MAY				USDA Hardiness ZONE 8b		Estimated Last Frost: April 30 Estimated First Frost: Oct 31
CROP	SOIL TEMP.	PLANTING DATE	SPACING	DEPTH	METHOD	FROM SEED TO HARVEST	NOTES	
Basil	70 - 85	15 th + 31 st	2 - 8"	n/a	Transplant	6 - 8 wks from transplant	Harvest continually to promote new growth.	
Beans, Dry	65 - 85	15 th	2 - 4"	1"	Seed	10 - 14 weeks	Harvest snap beans often to keep them producing. Grow pole types on a trellis or teepee. Plan for two plantings of snap beans.	
Beans, Snap	65 - 85	15 th + 31 st	2 - 4"	1"	Seed	8 - 10 weeks		
Brussels sprouts	55 - 75	15 th	4 - 6"	¼"	Seed	11 - 17 weeks	Sweeter for harvest after a few frosts.	
Corn, Sweet	65 - 85	1 st	4"	1 - 2"	Seed	11 - 13 weeks	Will cross-pollinate each other so stagger plantings by 2 wks according to maturity date. Plant in blocks of <i>at least</i> "4 plants per row by 4 rows" for proper wind pollination. (Also see <i>Three Sisters</i> info below).	
Popcorn	65 - 85	1 st	4"	1 - 2"	Seed	13 - 15 weeks		
Flowers (out)	Amaranth, Calendula, Cleome, Coreopsis, Cosmos, Marigold, Nasturtium, Sunflowers, Zinnia						Sow directly in garden during May for blooms from August - early Fall.	
Sow directly in garden throughout May	Amaranth, arugula, Asian greens, beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cilantro, collards, dill, kale, kohlrabi, leeks, lettuce, onions, parsnips, late potatoes, radishes, runner beans, scallions, spinach, Swiss chard, turnips							
Sow directly in garden late May (under a cloche)	Basil, cucumbers, gourds, melons, pumpkins, and summer + winter squash							
Transplant to garden late May/ early June	Basil, collards, cucumbers, eggplant, gourds, ground cherries, melons, peppers, pumpkins, summer + winter squash, tomatillos, tomatoes						Harden off all plants before transplanting to garden. Take several days to gradually acclimate them to the unprotected outdoors; don't rush the process of moving them from a protected environment into garden beds.	

- **Don't forget:** the annual School Garden Plant Sale is day before Mother's Day at Northlake! It's a great opportunity to support School Gardens **and** buy Mom a living gift.
- **Thinning:** 6-inch tall beets to 4 - 6" apart, 6-inch tall carrots + parsnips to 2 - 4" apart, 4-inch tall radishes to 1 - 2" apart, 8-inch tall chard/collards/kale/lettuce/mustard to 8 - 12" apart.
- **Three Sisters:** a tradition of some Native American tribes, Three Sisters is a companion planting of corn, beans, and squash. For best results plant sweet corn **or** popcorn by itself and then several weeks later within the same 2 square feet plant pole beans and winter squash; the corn will act as a trellis for the bean plant, the squash will shade out weeds as well as keeping the soil cooler with its leaves, and the beans will fix nutrients in the soil. *May is an ideal month to do this.* <http://www.reneesgarden.com/articles/3sisters.html>
- **Summer watering reminders:** deep watering in the early morning or later evening is your best bet when it's above 70 degrees outside (though some plants may prefer more frequent and shallow watering).
- **Recruit students and their families** to sign up for one week of watering and caring for the garden each, over the summer while school is out.
- **Look at different invertebrates in the garden** and decide whether they are beneficial or "pests". Visit <http://eatthinkgrow.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/1S21.pdf> for a lesson about good bugs in the garden.
- **Turn and care for compost regularly.**
- **Harvest Time:** arugula, Asian greens, asparagus, borage, brassica flowers, broccoli, calendula, chervil, chives, cilantro, fava leaves and blossoms, fennel, kale, lettuce, mint, mustard, nasturtiums, parsley, snap + snow peas, radishes, rosemary, rhubarb, sage, scallions, sorrel, spinach, strawberries, Swiss chard, and thyme.

