

		<h1 style="text-align: center;">Lower Columbia School Gardens - Monthly Planting Guide</h1>	
		<h2 style="font-size: 2em;">SEPTEMBER</h2>	<b>USDA Hardiness ZONE 8b</b>
CROP		NOTES	
Flowers (in or out) early September	Alyssum, Bachelor Buttons, Breadseed Poppy, Clarkia, Flanders Poppy, Johnny Jump Up, Larkspur, Mountain Phlox, Nigella, Peony Poppy, Phacelia	Hardy, self-sowing annuals provide great benefits both as a reliable nectar source for beneficial insects as well as suppressing weeds.	
<i>Overwintering Veg</i> sow directly in garden late Sept	Arugula, Asian greens, beets, carrots, chervil, cilantro, fava beans (also excellent cover crop), grains (barley, oats, rye, spelt, triticale, wheat - all excellent cover crops), kohlrabi, lettuce, mustard, radishes, scallions, snap + snow peas, spinach, sprouting broccoli, Swiss chard, turnips (for greens)	These crops are meant to be overwintered - they will go into Winter with only a few "true leaves" and then won't grow more until late Winter or early Spring. They are intended for Harvest from late Feb - April. Some may need extra protection from cold using a cloche/reemay.  If you find your garden lacking space to plant Winter vegetables it may be time to harvest some late-summer crops to make way.	
<i>Overwintering Veg</i> transplant in garden late Sept	Kale, lettuce, mustard, spinach, Swiss chard		

- **Fall Garden Programs begin this month!** Visit <http://www.lcschoolgardens.org> or email [info@lcschoolgardens.org](mailto:info@lcschoolgardens.org) for more information or to find out how you can volunteer.
- **Don't forget:** LCSG offers a Free School Garden Volunteer Training this month. Email [info@lcschoolgardens.org](mailto:info@lcschoolgardens.org) for more information.
- **September is an ideal month to introduce students to their school garden!** So many things are growing, the weather is still mild, and students are just back from Summer vacation and can use help getting focused back into the school year.
  - Re-introduce students to the Edible Parts of a Plant. Visit [http://lcschoolgardens.org/files\\_to\\_share/EdiblePartsofaPlant.pdf](http://lcschoolgardens.org/files_to_share/EdiblePartsofaPlant.pdf) for a lesson about the Edible Parts of a Plant.
  - Invite students to taste as many different fruits, vegetables, herbs, and edible flowers as possible in the garden.
  - Introduce students to the garden by having a scavenger hunt or doing an art project where they draw things they see in the garden.
  - Bring microscopes out so students can look more closely at garden flora and fauna; they can also draw what they see through the microscope.
- **Despite the temptation, DO NOT add organic fertilizer to your overwintering vegetables.** The goal right now is to slow plant growth throughout the fall and early winter before the plant goes into stasis (think hibernating bear). (In the Spring you can apply organic fertilizers or composted manure to spur faster growth when plants have woken from their slumber).
- **Harvest time:** apples, artichokes, arugula, Asian greens, basil, runner beans (4 - 6" long pods, but also allow some to fully mature), snap beans, fava beans + leaves, beets, blackberries, blueberries, broccoli, cabbage, Chinese cabbage, calendula, carrots, cauliflower, celery, cilantro, collards, sweet corn, cucumbers, dill, eggplant, bulb fennel, figs, ground cherries, kale, leeks, lettuce, melons, onions, orach, parsley, parsnips, snap + snow peas, peaches, pears, hot peppers, sweet peppers, plums, potatoes, raspberries, rutabagas, scallions, summer + winter squash, spinach, strawberries, Swiss chard, tomatillos, tomatoes, and turnips.

