

		Lower Columbia School Gardens - Monthly Planting Guide					USDA Hardiness ZONE 8b	Estimated Last Frost: April 30 Estimated First Frost: Oct 31
		NOVEMBER + DECEMBER + JANUARY						
CROP	SOIL TEMP.	PLANTING DATE	SPACING	DEPTH	METHOD	FROM SEED TO HARVEST	NOTES	
Barley	55 - 75	Nov 1 st	Broadcast	n/a	Seed	n/a	Cover crop for weed suppression and erosion control.	
Crimson Clover	60 - 75	Nov 1 st	Broadcast	n/a	Seed	n/a	Cover crop for fixing nitrogen, also nectar source for beneficial insects.	
Fava Beans	60 - 85	Nov 1 st	3 - 6"	1 - 2"	Seed	4 - 5 months	Great as cover crop for fixing nitrogen but will also fill a gap in early Spring with its flowers and leaves. Beans will be ready for harvest late Spring or early Summer.	
Flower Bulbs	Anemone, Asian Lilies, Checkered Lily/Fritillaria, Crocus, Daffodil, Grape Hyacinth/Muscari, Iris, Trillium, Tulips					All of these bulbs are Spring-blooming but are best planted throughout November.		

NOVEMBER

- **Fall Garden Programs end this month but there are still many opportunities to volunteer.** Email info@lcschoolgardens.org for more information or to find out how you can volunteer.
- **Make sure all garden beds are protected from erosion** by adding compost, leaves and/or other organic materials to each one.
- This is a good time of year to **test garden soil(s)** and find out what nutrients need to be added when Spring arrives and what nutrients your soil already has in plenty supply.
- **Turn off** watering systems for the Winter, put away hoses (let them drain fully first) and wrap faucets if necessary.
- **Harvest time:** apples, arugula, dry beans, fava beans, runner beans, beets, borage, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, calendula, carrots, cauliflower, chives, cilantro, collards, gourds (for decoration), kale, fuzzy kiwi, kohlrabi, leeks, lettuce, nasturtiums, parsley, parsnips, peas, potatoes, pumpkins, rutabagas, winter squash, spinach, Swiss chard, and turnips.

DECEMBER

- **Add compost and leaves to all garden beds.** (Compost and leaves can still be added to beds where there are plants, but be sure to give plants a bit of breathing space).
- **Sprouting experiments indoors** are a fun and easy way to keep students connected with gardening during Winter months. Try a variety of seeds - sunflower, radish, bean, broccoli, various herbs - and have students make observations and comparisons of different seeds based on germination rates, fastest growing, biggest seed, etc.
- **Use Winter months to do garden upkeep** - haul away debris too big for the compost, spread wood chips, mulch around fruit trees, shrubs, and perennials, continue to turn the compost pile, do major projects that there is no time for when the garden is busy.
- **Harvest time:** apples, arugula, Asian greens, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, calendula, chives, collards, kale, fuzzy kiwi, leeks, lettuce, parsnips, persimmons, spinach, Swiss chard, and turnips.

JANUARY

- **Test soil temperatures with students** - ask them to make predictions about how soon seeds can go in the ground, or hypothesize why soil temperatures vary between different parts of the garden. Soil temperature is best tested 3 inches below the surface.
- **Have students create garden plans, growing plans, and garden maps** for the coming season.
- **Let students look through seed catalogs** and decide what they would like to grow next year.
- **Harvest time:** arugula, Asian greens, beets, broccoli, sprouting broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, calendula, carrots, chervil, chickweed (grows wild), collards, kale, leeks, lettuce, mustard, parsley, potatoes, parsnips, radishes, rosemary, rutabagas, sage, scallions, sorrel, spinach, Swiss chard, thyme, and turnips.

