

## What to Plant When in the Chicago Area

Cold-Tolerant / Early Spring Crops: <i>March 17 – May 30</i>	Heat-Loving / Summer Crops: <i>May 15 – July 15</i>	Fall Crops (Unprotected): <i>July 15 – August 31</i>	Overwinter: <i>October 15 – November 5</i>
Asparagus	<i>Asparagus</i>	Beets	Egyptian Onions
Beets	<i>Blackberries</i>	Broccoli	Garlic
Blackberries	<i>Broccoli</i>	Carrots	Spinach
Broccoli	Brussels Sprouts	Greens	
Cabbage	Corn	Lettuce	
Carrots	Cucumbers	Radishes	
Cauliflower	<i>Currants</i>	Spinach	
Currants	Edamame		
Grapes	Eggplant		
Greens	Flowers		
Kohlrabi	<i>Grapes</i>		
Leeks	<i>Greens</i>		
Lettuce	Herbs		
Onions	<i>Lettuce</i>		
Peas	Melons		
Potatoes	Okra		
Radishes	Peppers		
Raspberries	<i>Potatoes</i>		
Rhubarb	Pumpkins		
Spinach	<i>Radishes</i>		
Strawberries	<i>Raspberries</i>		
	<i>Rhubarb</i>		
	<i>Strawberries</i>		
	String Beans		
	Tomatoes		
	Winter Squash		

\*Crops in *italics* can be planted at this time, but are more likely to do well if planted at another time. Asparagus, for example, can be planted in late spring, but will do better if planted in early spring.

## What to Grow from Seed or Plants

### Direct Seeding vs. Transplanting

Direct Seeding	Transplanting
Arugula	Broccoli
Beans	Brussels Sprouts
Beets	Cabbage
Carrots	Cauliflower
Collards*	Collards*
Corn	Cucumber*
Cucumber*	Eggplant
Kale*	Garlic (from bulb)
Lettuce*	Herbs (seed Cilantro and Dill)
Parsnip	Kale*
Peas	Kohlrabi
Potatoes	Leek
Pumpkin*	Lettuce*
Radish	Melons
Rutabaga	Onions
Spinach*	Peppers
Swiss Chard*	Pumpkin*
Summer Squash	Spinach*
Winter Squash*	Strawberries
	Sweet Potato (from slip)
	Swiss Chard*
	Tomatoes
	Winter Squash*

*\*indicates both options work well*

## What to Plant When in School Gardens for a Seed-to-Table Experience (does not include fruit)

<b>Spring Salad:</b> <i>Plant Mid-April Harvest Late May</i>	<b>Crops for Fall Harvest:</b> <i>Plant April or May Harvest September - November</i>	<b>Optional Crops:</b> <i>Plant April or May Harvest June - August</i>
Lettuce (S/P)	Beets (S)	Cucumbers (S/P)
Spinach (S/)	Corn (S) – many days to mature	Broccoli (P)
Mizuna (S)	Herbs (P) – Cilantro & Dill (S)	Edamame (S)
Radish (S)	Brussels Sprouts (P)	String Beans (S)
	Melons (S/P)	Cauliflower (P)
	Onions (S)	Peas (S)
	Dry Beans – Pinto, Kindney, etc. (S)	Cabbage (P)
	Peppers (P)	
	Greens – Kale, Chard, Collards (S/P)	
	Tomatoes (P)	
	Winter Squash (S/P)	
	Carrots (S)	
	Leeks (P)	
	Potatoes (S – use old potato as seed)	

*(S) - crops planted by seed  
(P) – crops planted as transplants*

## Month-by-Month in Your School Garden

<b>Month</b>	<b>Phase</b>
December, January, February	Planning (layout, activities, plant types)
March, April	Soil Preparation (weather-dependent)
April, May	Planting
June – November	Maintenance & Harvesting
November	Putting Garden to Bed

## **What to Grow for Easy Success in the Chicago Area with our Favorite Varieties**

### **Arugula**

### **Cucumbers**

Marketmore (traditional, Suyo Long, Lemon, Green Finger (seedless), Mexican Sour Gherkin (fun for kids)

### **Edamame** (green soy beans)

### **Garlic**

**Herbs:** Basil, Dill, Chives, Oregano, Parsley, Sorrel, Thyme

### **Kale**

Red Russian, Lacinato/Dinosaur, Winterbor (green curly)

### **Lettuce**

Amish Deer Tongue (dark green), Bronze Mignonette (green speckled), Jericho (romaine), Red Oak Leaf (red curly leaf)

### **Peppers**

Glow (orange sweet), Flavorburst (yellow sweet), Carmen (red sweet), Lunchbox (red, orange, and yellow mini sweet)

### **Potatoes**

Adirondack Blue or All Blue, Yukon Gold, Dark Red Norland

### **Radish**

Easter Egg (multicolor mix), French Breakfast

### **String Beans** (bush or pole)

Provider (green), Sultan's Gold Crescent (yellow), Royal Burgundy (purple), Tavera (haricot vert)

### **Swiss Chard**

Bright Lights

### **Tomato**

Sun Gold, Jaune de Flamme, Black Cherry, Black Krim, Brandywine, Green Zebra, Big Beef

### **Winter Squash**

Waltham Butternut

## Products & Resources for Organic Vegetable Gardening in the Chicago Area

<p><b><u>Recommended Books</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>From the Ground Up: A Food Grower's Education in Life, Love, and the Movement That's Changing the Nation</i> by Jeanne Nolan of The Organic Gardener</li> <li>• <i>Rodale's Ultimate Encyclopedia of Organic Gardening: The Indispensable Resource for Every Gardener</i></li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Organic Plant Sources</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Garfield Park Conservatory's Green &amp; Growing Urban Gardening Fair (April)</li> <li>• Kilbourn Organic Greenhouse Plant Sale (Mid May)</li> <li>• Chicago's Green City Market (Wednesdays &amp; Saturdays all season)</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Organic Compost Sources</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Resource Center 1325 E 70th Street (773) 821-1351</li> <li>• Lake Street Supply Co. 1810 W Lake Street (312) 226-0760</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Compost Units</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ComposT-Twin by Mantis 1-800-366-6268 <a href="http://mantis.com/c-twin.asp">mantis.com/c-twin.asp</a></li> <li>• GREENCulture Composters 1-877-20-GREEN <a href="http://www.composters.com">www.composters.com</a></li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Fertilizers &amp; Soil Conditioner</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Earth Organic Homegrown 5-7-3 Tomato, Vegetable and Herb Fertilizer (granulated fertilizer)</li> <li>• Neptune's Harvest Fish Emulsion/Seaweed Combo (for foliar feeding)</li> <li>• Fox Farm Big Bloom (for root drenching or foliar feeding)</li> <li>• Arbico Garlic Barrier (for organic pest control)</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Seeds &amp; Supplies</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Johnny's Selected Seeds <a href="http://www.johnnyseeds.com">www.johnnyseeds.com</a></li> <li>• Seed Saver's Exchange <a href="http://www.seedsavers.org">www.seedsavers.org</a></li> <li>• Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds <a href="http://www.rareseeds.com">www.rareseeds.com</a></li> <li>• Gardener's Supply Company (raised bed kits, containers, etc.) <a href="http://www.gardeners.com">www.gardeners.com</a></li> <li>• Texas Tomato Cages <a href="http://www.tomatocage.com">www.tomatocage.com</a></li> </ul>