



# Lower Columbia School Gardens - Monthly Planting Guide

## MARCH

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 <sup>th</sup>	n/a	¼"	Indoors	10 - 12 wks	Pot up at 4 weeks. Transplant out late-May/mid-June.
Brussels sprouts	55 - 75	15 <sup>th</sup>	n/a	¼"	Indoors	12 - 18 wks	Sweeter for harvest after a frost or two.
Celery + Celeriac	60 - 70	1 <sup>st</sup>	n/a	1/8- ¼"	Indoors	15 - 20 wks	Transplant out mid-April.
Cilantro	60 - 75	1 <sup>st</sup>	4"	½ - 1"	Seed	4 - 12 wks	Sow weekly March - October (except July/Aug). Harvest weekly until frost.
Collards	55 - 75	15 <sup>th</sup>	12 - 16"	¼ - ½"	Seed	8 - 12 wks	Sow monthly March - June. Can also be started indoors and transplanted out when 3 wks old.
Eggplant	75 - 85	15 <sup>th</sup>	n/a	¼"	Indoors	7 - 11 wks	Pot up at 3 weeks. Transplant out late May/early June.
Flowers (out)	Alyssum, Bachelor Buttons, Calendula, Coreopsis					varies	Seed directly in the garden.
Flowers (in)	African Daisy, Chinese Lantern, Cosmos, Hollyhock, Mallow, Marigold, Nasturtium, Phlox, Scabiosa, Statice, Yarrow, Zinnia					varies	Seed indoors to transplant out in late April.
Ground Cherry & Tomatillo	70 - 90	15 <sup>th</sup>	n/a	¼"	Indoors	10 - 14 wks	Pot up at 3 weeks. Transplant out mid-May.
Kale	55 - 75	15 <sup>th</sup>	8 - 16"	¼ - ½"	Seed	10 - 12 wks	For late-Spring and Summer harvest.
Parsley	50 - 75	1 <sup>st</sup>	4"	¼ - ½"	Seed	11 wks	Harvest continually April - June. Sow again in April.
Peas, Snap + Snow	40 - 75	1 <sup>st</sup> + 15 <sup>th</sup>	1"	1 - 1 ½"	Seed	8 - 9 wks	For pole/tall varieties, provide trellis or plant near other climbing structure/tree.
Peppers	70 - 90	1 <sup>st</sup>	n/a	¼"	Indoors	9 - 13 wks	Pot up at 3 weeks. Transplant out late-May.
Potatoes	50 - 70	15 <sup>th</sup>	12 - 24"	4 - 6"	"Seed"	14 - 19 wks	Add bone meal to soil before planting. Plant March - early May.
Swiss Chard	50 - 75	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 - 3"	½"	Seed	7 - 9 wks	Sow March - July, harvesting continually.
Tomato	70 - 90	1 <sup>st</sup>	n/a	¼"	Indoors	10 - 16 wks	Pot up at 3 weeks. Transplant out mid-May.
Turnips	50 - 70	1 <sup>st</sup>	1 - 2"	¼ - ½"	Seed	6 - 9 wks	Sow Mar - Aug, harvest young, when golf ball-sized.

- **Spring 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.
- **Sow directly in garden weekly or every other week in March:** arugula, beets, carrots, cilantro, lettuce, peas, radishes, and spinach.
- **Transplant to garden mid-March (after hardening off):** broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, and spinach.
- **This is the month to start planting seed potatoes,** contact [info@lcschoolgardens.org](mailto:info@lcschoolgardens.org) to see what varieties may be available.
- **Begin weeding with gusto** throughout the garden this month and **checking for slugs/snails regularly.**
- **Trim all onion seedlings in pots** to 3 inches tall and use the trimmings the same way you would use chives - top a baked potato, add to a salad or sprinkle over scrambled eggs.
- **Turn and care for compost regularly.**

