



# Lower Columbia School Gardens - Monthly Planting Guide

## OCTOBER

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
Arugula	40 - 75	1 <sup>st</sup>	2" bands	¼ - ½"	Seed	4 - 8 wks	Use cloche to extend harvest into cooler weather.
Barley	55 - 75	1 <sup>st</sup>	Broadcast	n/a	Seed	n/a	Cover crop for weed suppression and erosion control.
Cilantro	60 - 75	1 <sup>st</sup>	4"	½ - 1"	Seed	4 - 12 wks	Sow weekly until end of October. Harvest weekly until frost.
Crimson Clover	60 - 75	1 <sup>st</sup>	Broadcast	n/a	Seed	n/a	Cover crop for fixing nitrogen, also nectar source for beneficial insects.
Fava Beans	60 - 85	1 <sup>st</sup> + 15 <sup>th</sup>	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.
Garlic	40 - 65	1 <sup>st</sup> + 15 <sup>th</sup>	6"	1 - 2"	"Seed"	9 - 10 months	Can be planted Oct - mid-Nov. Scapes (aka Garlic curls) will be ready for harvest on hard-neck varieties in June or early July. Harvest whole heads in late July or August.
Peas, Snap + Snow	45 - 75	1 <sup>st</sup>	1"	1 - 1 ½"	Seed	6 - 8 months	Choose varieties that will overwinter and provide you with an early Spring harvest (Cascadia, Sugar Ann, Oregon Sugar Pod II).

- **October is the month for Harvest Festivals in many School Gardens!** Be on the lookout for one near you. Email [info@lcschoolgardens.org](mailto:info@lcschoolgardens.org) for details on how to get involved.
- **October is the month for planting garlic:** contact [info@lcschoolgardens.org](mailto:info@lcschoolgardens.org) to find out how you can get some seed garlic to plant in your school garden, and visit <http://www.lcschoolgardens.org/blog/growing-your-own-garlic> for more growing info.
- **Gather seeds in the garden from fully dried flowers, herbs, and vegetables,** taking care to label varieties and vegetable types.
  - **Easy-to-save "dry" seeds include:** artichokes, arugula, asparagus, beans (dry, fava, snap, and runner), popcorn, sweet corn, kale, lettuce, mustard, onions, peas, radishes, spinach, Swiss chard, nasturtium, calendula, marigold, borage, chives, bachelor buttons, sunflowers, phacelia, cosmos, zinnia, bee balm, gaillarda, catnip, dill, cilantro, parsley, sage, and epazote.
  - **Seeds that have to be saved from fully-formed vegetables or "wet" seeds include:** cucumbers, melons, peppers, pumpkins, summer squash, winter squash, tomatoes, tomatillos, and ground cherries.
- **Harvest time:** apples, arugula, Asian greens, basil, dry beans, fava beans, runner beans, snap beans, beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, Chinese cabbage, calendula, carrots, cauliflower, celery, cilantro, cucumbers, collards, sweet corn, eggplant, bulb fennel, figs, gourds, ground cherries, kale, hardy kiwi, kohlrabi, leeks, lettuce, melons, nasturtiums, pears, snap + snow peas, parsley, parsnips, hot peppers, sweet peppers, plums, potatoes, pumpkins, quince, raspberries, rutabagas, rosemary, spinach, summer + winter squash, Swiss chard, thyme, tomatillos, tomatoes, and turnips.

