Succession Planting for Multiple Season Garden

- Plan ahead for how many seasons to garden.
- To increase seasons use:
  - indoor seedling production
  - Shade Cloth
  - Short season crops
  - season extensions (low tunnels, remay, coldframes, etc.)

1st season – spring garden
- Plant late winter/early Spring
  - cool weather plants

2nd season – summer garden
- Plant late spring/early summer
  - Warm weather plants

3rd season – fall garden
- Plant late summer/early fall
  - cool weather plants

4th season – Winter garden
- Plant mid/late fall
  - cover crops, cool weather with winter protection, garlic, bulbs

May have to choose between ripping out a crop that’s not done producing and starting a new season.
Example Seasonal Bed Layouts

**Bed One**

- Short Spring Garden (No Brassicas)
  - March - April
- Summer Garden
  - May - September
- Winter Cover Crop
  - Sept - February

**Bed Two**

- Long Spring Garden
  - March - July
- Long Fall Garden
  - (many Fall plants can grow all winter with season extensions)
  - July - November
- Winter Garden
  - Sept – February

- Use summer shade cloth/light weight remay during hot months of summer.
- If it gets too hot, plant a buckwheat cover crop till it cools down.

Only winter rye or winter wheat can be seeded after September.
Summer – Warm Weather Crops
- Basil
- Beans
- Cantaloupes
- Chiles
- Corn
- Cucumber
- Eggplant
- Melons
- Okra
- Peppers
- Pumpkin
- Sweet Potatoes
- Tomatillos
- Tomatoes
- Zucchini
- Summer Squash
- Winter Squash

*most herbs and flowers

*Most warm crops will die if touched by frost

Spring/Fall – Cool Weather Crops
- Arugula
- Beets
- Broccoli
- Cabbage
- Carrots
- Cauliflower
- Celery
- Cilantro
- Collards
- Dill
- Endive
- Fennel
- Garlic
- Kale
- Kohlrabi
- Lettuce
- Leeks
- Mustard
- Nasturtiums
- Onions
- Pak Choy
- Parsley
- Peas
- Parsnips
- Radicchio
- Radishes
- Sorrel
- Spinach
- Swiss Chard
- Turnips

Most cool crops will grow in summer, especially w/ shade protection
Planting in the Shade

**Sunlight**
Full sun plants – 6-8 hours  
Partial shade plants – 3-6 hours

**Shade Tolerant Vegetables**
- **Greens:** arugula, Asian greens, chard, kale, spinach, lettuce  
- **Culinary herbs:** chives, oregano, cilantro, parsley, scallions  
- **Root vegetables:** beets, carrots, potatoes, radishes, turnips  
- **Legumes:** peas, beans (dwarf and bush varieties grow better)  
- **Fruits:** currant, gooseberry, strawberry

**Ways to Increase Sunlight**
- Paint south facing walls white  
- Reflective Mulching (aluminum foil)
Day Timing

Best time to plant:
- Late afternoon/evening
  - Cloudy, cool, non windy day
  - *Wait till soil is dry*

Best time to water:
1. Early in the Morning
2. Late afternoon/evening while there’s enough sun to dry leaves
   – Unless using drip irrigation

Best time to harvest:
1. Cool morning hours
2. Late afternoon/evening
What Plants to Direct Seed

Not all plants benefit from transplanting seedlings.

• Legumes
  – beans, peas, etc.

• Cucurbits
  – squash, cucumbers, zucchini, etc.

• Root Vegetables
  – beets, carrots, radishes, etc.

• Lettuces/Mesclun Mixes

• Corn
Plant Some Transplants Extra Deep

- Transplants that may benefit from deep plantings
  - Tomatoes
  - Many cool weather
  - any transplants that’s “leggy” or too tall

- Plant up to the bottom first leaves.
  - Plant tomatoes 2/3 into the ground

- Roots will form on the buried stems making the plant stronger.
Growing Potatoes in a Bag

1. Use a breathable bag - burlap
2. Roll sides down until the sack is about 6-8” high.
3. Add soil/compost mix
4. Plant 3-4 potato slips in bag, equally distanced apart
5. Water heavily
6. Every time the plant reaches 6-8” roll up the sides more and add 2-3” more to mound up the soil.
7. After potatoes stops flowering and plant begins to die off, wait two weeks then harvest.
8. Dump sack to harvest.
Sprouting and Planting Sweet Potatoes

• If sweet potato comes from grocery ask if it’s a bush or vine.

1. Use tooth picks to prop up a sweet potato in a glass of water.
   – Store in a warm area.
   – Change out the water every few days to keep from rotting
   – If any part of potato rots cut it off.

2. Wait until the sprouts grow 5-6 inches then pluck them.

3. Place each sprout in a shallow glass of water to encourage rooting.

4. Once roots start growing in a few days plant in a soft soil mound.
Plants to Deal with Theft

Avoid these when dealing with theft

• Melons
• Large tomatoes
• Above ground fruiting plants
  – Peppers, eggplants, corn, etc

Try plants with quick maturing fruits or no above ground fruits

• Cherry Tomatoes, mini eggplants, jalapenos
• Okra
• Fast growing greens like spinach, lettuce mixes
• Root crops
• Potatoes, sweet potatoes
• Green Zebra Tomatoes
Pruning Indeterminate Tomatoes

Benefits

• directs more energy to the fruit increasing its size and quality
• allows more sunlight and circulation to enter the plant decreasing pest and diseases

Directions

• Prune a tomato to look like a long and narrow tree with 90 degree angle branches
• Pinch (don’t cut) “suckers”, branches that grow in the crouch of a branch.
• Remove all leaves below the lowest flowering branch and yellowing branches.
• Until plant reaches 18” pinch off blossoms.
  • Pinch early blossom for most plants
Self Pollinating Cucurbits

Hand pollinate to increase pollination of cucurbits (squash, pumpkins, cucumber, melons, etc.)

1. Tear off the male plant and all its flowers
2. Dip and rub it into the female flowers.

Male    Female
Keeping Cool Weather Crops Shaded in Summer

**Shade Cloth**
- Cover any cool weather crops with a shade cloth to continue growing in summer heat.
- Use 30-50% level shade cloth if too hot
  - Can carry over immature spring crops for fall harvest

**North Side Planting**
- Plant cool weather crops on the north side of a tall warm weather crop of trellis for shade
Intercropping to Change Seasons

• Intercrop cool and warm season crops over several weeks

• When removing plants either
  – Pull entire plant out and shake off soil
  – Cut plant from the base and leave roots to decompose
Harvesting Greens

Harvest in the morning to keep greens fresher

4 ways to harvest greens

1. Pick outer, larger leaves starting from bottom, one layer at a time.
   - Don’t leave stems!
   - Leave at least a 1/3 of plant

2. “Cut and come again”
   - Cut a handful of leaves at the base 1-2 inches off the ground
   - Allow the plant to regrow again 2-3 more times a season.

3. Lettuce heads – Pull or cut entire head out when completely ready to harvest.

4. Loose Leaf – Harvest by thinning out closely spaced leaves first.
Planting and Harvesting Garlic

**Planting**

- Plant in the fall between Oct 1\textsuperscript{st} – Nov 1\textsuperscript{st}.
- Do not use grocery garlic.
- Break apart the cloves during planting.
  - Keep the papery husks on each clove
- Plant with the tips of the clove up, 2 inches deep and 4-6 inches apart.
- Mulch heavily after planting until spring

**Harvesting**

*Scapes*

- Cut scapes off in late May/early June while still young and tender - first loop.

*Garlic*

- Harvest in late June/early July
- Harvest when bottom half of leaves are brown and top half are green.
- Leave top leaves on for curing
Pruning and Drying Herbs

Prune to encourage a stronger bush form and increase production.

• Pinch off the tallest stalks back to a “Y” or two lateral leaves to encourage a bush form.
• Pinched off any summer blooms

Drying Herbs

• Dry herbs to preserve them.
• Hang upside down in bunches in a dark, ventilated area for several weeks.
• Once dry strip leaves to be stored in airtight containers.
• Most herbs can preserved also by freezing, preserving in vinegar, or used in oils.
Curing Plants

Some plants need to be cured after harvest for better tastes or storage

Sweet potatoes
• Store in a warm (80-90 degrees) and humid space for 5-15 days.

Onions
• Sundry for 1-2 days.
• Cure onions for storage by spreading onions out inside a warm and ventilated space for 2-3 weeks.
• Cure until the necks are completely dry and tight. Then trim off the roots and leaves.

Garlic
• Leave the leaves on for curing.
• Hang in bunches in a dark, dry and ventilated area for 2 weeks
Alternative Edibles

Veggies
- Greens from
  - Beets, broccoli, Brussels sprout, sweet potatoes

Flowers
- Squash blossoms
- Nasturtiums
- Borage
- Bolted brassicas (kale)
- Redbud tree

Weeds
- Dandelion
- Purslane
- Lambs quarter
- Morning glory
- Chickweed
For Further Information

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