

Crop Families

Brassicas

- Broccoli
- Cabbage
- Kale
- Collards
- Cauliflower
- Brussel Sprouts
- Asian Greens (mustards, mizuna, arugula)
- Bok Choi
- Radish, Turnip



Direct Seed or Transplant	Transplant recommended for most. Kale, bok choy, mustards can be direct seeded.
Two Plantings	Plant in spring and mid-summer, harvest in early summer and fall.
Cold Hardy	Will not be damaged by light frost. Will not produce well in heat.
Harvest window	Many plants have a 2 week harvest period, other such as kale and collards can be harvested from for several months or all season.
Pests	Flea beetles, cabbage moth, cabbage looper
Disease	Black rot (most common on cole crops)
Soil and Fertility	“Heavy feeders.” Brassicas do well with an extra nitrogen boost early in growth.

Crop Families

Cucurbits

- Cucumber
- Summer Squash
- Winter Squash
- Pumpkins
- Zucchini
- Melons
- Gourds



Direct Seed or Transplant	Transplanting recommended for early planting, direct seed later in season
One or Two plantings	One planting in June is generally enough, can be followed by a second planting 2-3 weeks later to ensure a continuous harvest until frost. One planting for winter squash.
Heat Loving	Need warm soil temperature. Will be damaged by frost.
Harvest window	Once producing, harvest is continuous, often until frost. One harvest for winter squash.
Pests	Squash bug, cucumber beetle
Disease	Powdery mildew, blossom end rot
Soil and Fertility	Do well with a fertilizer that has lots of potassium and phosphorus. Too much nitrogen will cause plants to grow well, but they may not bear fruit.

Crop Families

Solanums/Nightshade

- Tomatoes
- Potatoes
- Eggplant
- Peppers



Transplant	Must be transplanted, except for potatoes
One planting	Need full season to mature.
Heat loving	Do not plant until danger of frost has passed
Harvest window	Harvest generally starts mid August and goes until frost.
Pest	Potato beetle, tomato horn worm
Disease	Early and late blight, bean rust, septorium
Soil and Fertility	We usually put a handful of compost into the transplant holes of each plant for extra fertility. Too much nitrogen will cause the plants to grow well but they may not bear fruit (especially with peppers and eggplant.) Potatoes need a lot of Nitrogen! Calcium prevents Blossom End rot.

Crop Families

Legumes

- Beans
- Soy Beans
- Peas
- Peanuts
- Clovers
- Vetch



Direct seed	All are direct seeded.
Multiple plantings	Peas – seed once in spring. Germinate best in cool temperatures. Green beans – seed every two weeks once danger of frost has passed Dried beans & soy beans – seed once in early summer
Temperature preferences vary in this family	
Harvest window	Fresh harvest from each planting usually lasts 2 weeks.
Pest	Bean beetle, Japanese beetle, cut worms (peas)
Disease	Bean blight
Soil and Fertility	The legume family needs very little fertility to do well. It is a good family to put into the rotation to help rest the soil but still get a marketable crop.

Allium

- Onions
- Shallots
- Garlic
- Lilies
- Leeks



Transplant	Transplant all bulb onions. Green onions can be transplanted and direct seeded. Garlic is planting in fall with cloves.
One planting	All bulb onions are transplanted in very early spring – they require the entire season to bulb. Green onions which can be planted throughout the season.
Cold Hardy	First thing to plant in the spring.
Harvest window	Mid-summer to late fall.
Pest and Disease	Garlic can get aster yellow; thrips; pink root rot.
Soil and Fertility	Moderate fertility, shallow root system.

Crop Families

Umbel

- Carrots
- Parsnips
- Parsley
- Dill
- Cilantro
- Celery



Direct seed	Direct seeded, except parsley and celery are usually transplanted.
Multiple plantings	Carrots, dill and cilantro – seed every 2 weeks for continuous harvest Parsnips are seeded once in early summer. Parsley and celery are usually planted once.
Moderate Temperatures	
Harvest window	Each planting can be harvested from for 1-3 weeks.
Disease	Aster yellow
Pests	Gophers and ground squirrels, root maggots
Soil and Fertility	Loose soil. Moderate fertility.

Goosefoot/Chenopods

- Chard
- Spinach
- Beets



Direct seed	All can be direct seeded, chard is also commonly transplanted for larger plants.
Multiple plantings	Beets – plant every two weeks for continuous harvest Chard – plant in spring and in fall Spinach – plant in early spring and fall
Cold Hardy	Plant early in season and in fall
Harvest window	Each planting can be harvested from for 2-3 weeks, chard can often be harvested from for 4-6 weeks.
Pest and Disease	No significant pests or disease; spinach more susceptible than others.
Soil and Fertility	Moderate fertility.

Crop Families

Poaceae/Grass

- Corn
- Popcorn
- Wheat
- Rice
- Oats
- Rye



Direct seed	All are direct seeded.
Multiple plantings	Sweet corn – plant every two weeks spring to early summer. Other planting times vary.
Moderate temperatures	
Harvest window	Usually harvest all from one planting within 1-2 weeks.
Pest and Disease	Corn ear worm, corn smut – raccoons and skunks love sweet corn!
Soil and Fertility	Corn is a heavy feeder.

Crop Families

Aster

- Lettuce



Direct seed	Salad mix is direct seeded; head lettuce transplanted.
Multiple plantings	Spring and fall plantings; lettuce will bolt in summer heat.
Cold Hardy	Can withstand a light frost.
Harvest window	1 to 1.5 weeks, depending on temperature.
Pest and Disease	White flies; very little disease problems.
Soil and Fertility	Not a heavy feeder on the soil.