

# Schoolyard Edible Gardens

## **This packet is a complete guide to planting your own Schoolyard Edible Garden.**

There are two designs for a garden with two raised planting beds. **Garden One** is a two phase plan which starts in the fall and carries over to spring. **Garden Two** is a one phase plan for spring which students can plant and harvest in the same season.

Check the class calendar at [www.atlantabotanicalgarden.org](http://www.atlantabotanicalgarden.org) for upcoming opportunities to learn more about growing your own food.



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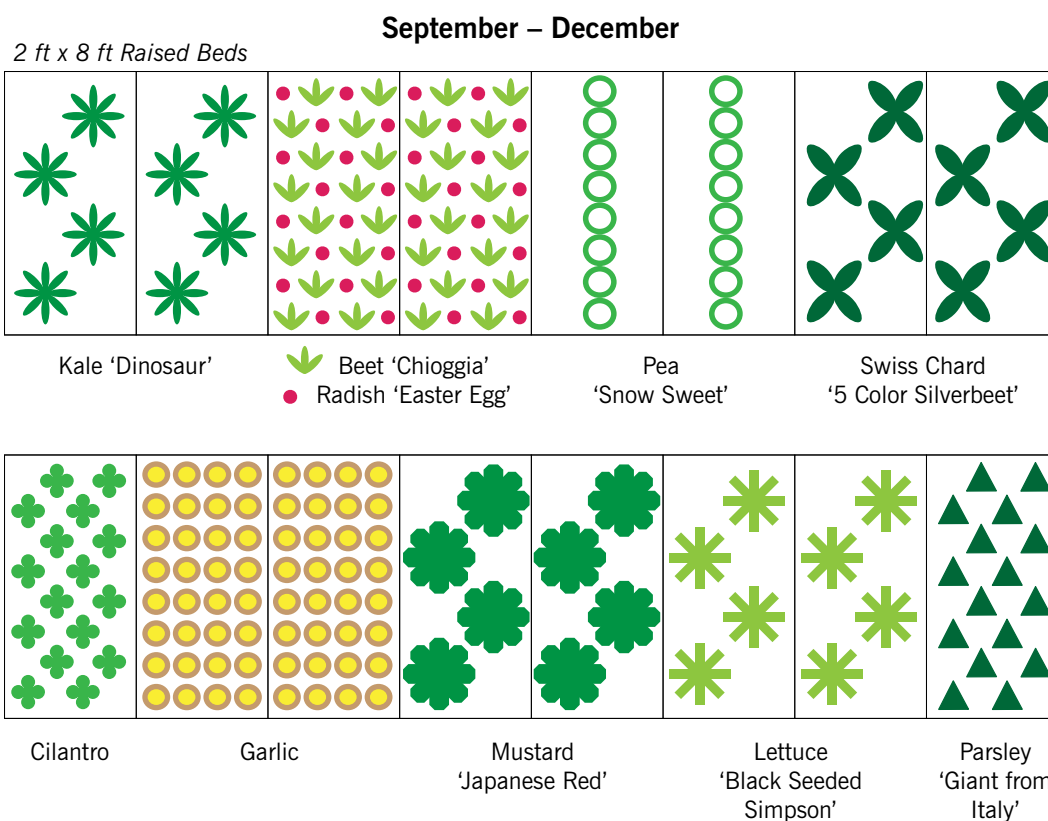
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# Schoolyard Edible Gardens

## Garden One: Fall Plant Layout



# Schoolyard Edible Gardens

## **Garden One: Fall Details**

This plan has two different planting times: one in the fall and one in the early spring. Some of the fall plants will be harvested before the first winter frost and some will last through the spring. In the spaces left from the fall harvest, you will plant more seedlings in the spring for a spring harvest.

### **Planting and Harvesting:**

Plant	Cultivar	Spacing	Quantity	Direct Seed or Transplant	When To Harvest
Kale	'Dinosaur'	6"	8	Either	As Needed until May
Swiss Chard	'Five Color Silverbeet'	6"	8	Either	Before Frost
Beet	'Chioggia'	4"	32	Direct Seed	Before Frost
Radish	'Easter Egg'	4"	32	Direct Seed	Before Frost
Pea	'Snow Sweet'	4"	16	Either	Before Frost
Cilantro		4"	16	Direct Seed	As Needed until May
Garlic		4"	32	Direct Seed	May
Mustard	'Japanese Red'	6"	8	Either	Before Frost
Lettuce	'Black Seeded Simpson'	6"	8	Either	Before Frost
Parsley	'Giant from Italy'	4"	16	Either	As Needed until May

### **Special Notes:**

- Plants harvested "as needed until May" and in "May" are cold hardy and will survive through winter freezes in Georgia.
- All plants can be direct seeded. For plants listed as either I would recommend starting the seeds mid-August in pots with sterile media in a partly shaded area. Then in mid-September transplant those plants into the garden.
- It is important to directly seed root vegetables. Mix the radish and beet seeds together before sowing. It's OK to plant the seeds thickly. Once they start to grow, go through and pull out extra seedlings so that the amount of space in between each plant is 4 inches (great measuring activity!).
- The peas need a support system. I recommend 3.5 foot bamboo stakes or other sturdy sticks sunk 6 inches into the ground at the beginning and end of each pea row. Then string jute rope or some other string horizontally at half foot intervals between the two poles.

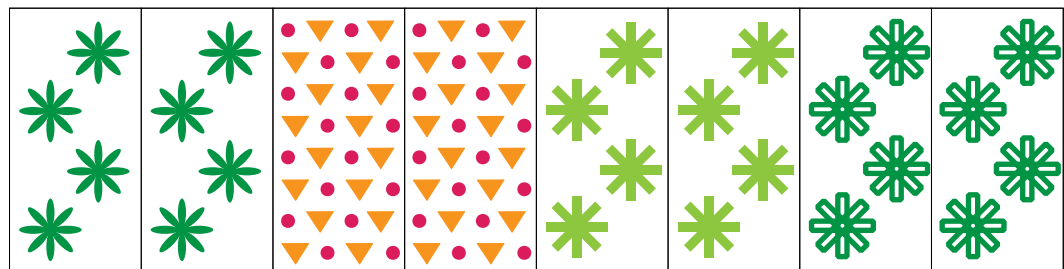


# Schoolyard Edible Gardens

## Garden One: Spring Plant Layout

**March – May**  
(Continuation of Fall Plant Layout)

*2 ft x 8 ft Raised Beds*

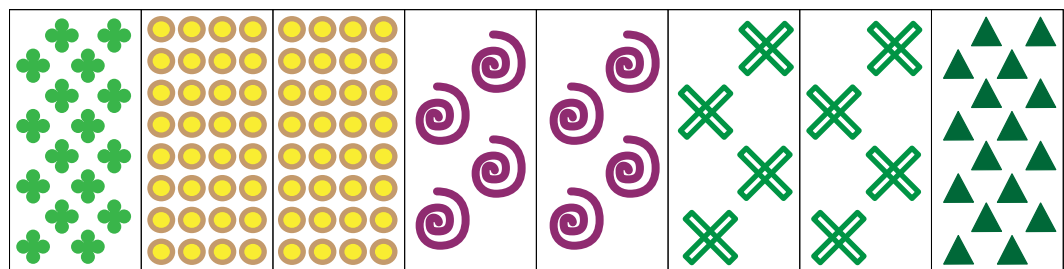


Kale 'Dinosaur'  
(Sept)

Carrot 'Danvers'  
Radish 'Easter Egg'

Lettuce  
'Black Seeded  
Simpson'

Cauliflower  
'Violet Queen'



Cilantro  
(Sept)

Garlic  
(Sept)

Cabbage  
'Mammoth Red Rock'

Cauliflower  
'Cheddar'

Parsley  
'Giant from Italy'  
(Sept)



# Schoolyard Edible Gardens

## Garden One: Spring Details

### Planting and Harvesting:

Plant	Cultivar	Spacing	Quantity	Direct Seed or Transplant	When To Harvest
Kale	'Dinosaur'	6"	8	Already planted in Sept	As Needed until May
Carrots	'Danvers'	4"	32	Direct Seed	May
Radish	'Easter Egg'	4"	32	Direct Seed	As Needed until May
Lettuce	'Black Seeded Simpson'	6"	8	Either	As Needed until May
Cauliflower	'Violet Queen'	4"	32	Transplant	May
Cilantro		4"	16	Already planted in Sept	As Needed until May
Garlic		4"	32	Already planted in Sept	May
Cabbage	'Mammoth Red Rock'	6"	8	Transplant	May
Cauliflower	'Cheddar'	6"	8	Transplant	May
Parsley	'Giant from Italy'	4"	16	Already planted in Sept	As Needed until May

### Special Notes:

- For the plants that should be planted as transplants, start the seed indoors in sterile media in mid-January. Then, as temperatures warm up towards the beginning of March, gradually harden off the plants outside and then plant in the ground in mid-March. To harden off the plants, place them outside in part shade for a couple of hours during the day, then bring them in at night. The next day leave them out a little longer in brighter light. Continue exposing them to more and more outdoor temperatures and light until they can stay out all the time. This usually takes around a week. If these plants are not started at transplants, but are directly sown in March, they will not have enough time to produce a vegetable before the end of school year.
- It is important to directly seed root vegetables. Mix the radish and carrot seeds together before sowing. It's OK to plant the seeds thickly. Once they start to grow, go through and pull out extra seedlings so that the amount of space in between each plant is 4 inches (great measuring activity!).

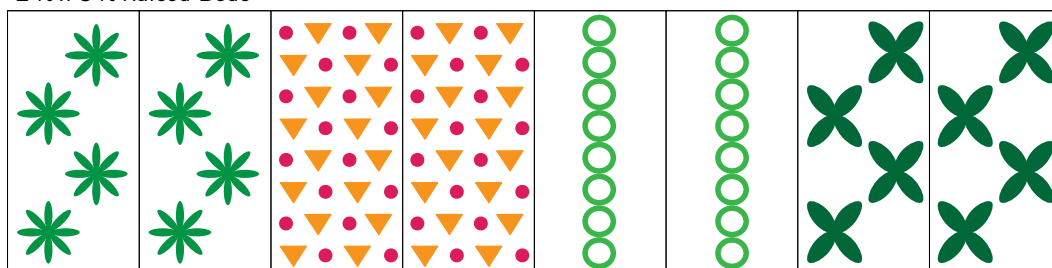


# Schoolyard Edible Gardens


## Garden Two: Plant Layout

March – May

2 ft x 8 ft Raised Beds

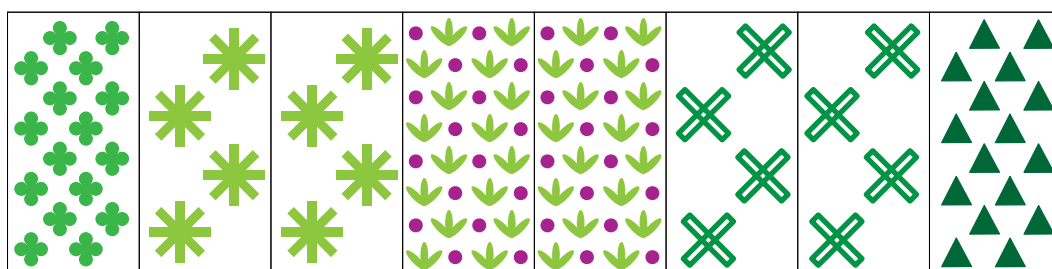


Red Mustard

 Carrot 'Danvers'  
 Radish 'Easter Egg'



Pea  
'Snow Sweet'

Swiss Chard  
'5 Color Silverbeet'



Cilantro

Lettuce  
'Black Seeded  
Simpson'

 Beet 'Chioggia'  
 Radish 'Plum Purple'

Cauliflower  
'Cheddar'

Parsley  
'Giant from  
Italy'



# Schoolyard Edible Gardens

## Garden Two: Details

This design is for a spring garden only, which means the plants can be harvested and enjoyed before the end of the school year!

### **Planting and Harvesting:**

Plant	Cultivar	Spacing	Quantity	Direct Seed or Transplant	When To Harvest
Mustard	'Japanese Red'	6"	8	Transplant	As Needed until May
Carrot	'Danvers'	4"	32	Direct Seed	May
Pea	'Snow Sweet'	4"	16	Transplant	As Needed until May
Swiss Chard	Five Color Silverbeet'	6"	8	Transplant	As Needed until May
Cilantro		4"	16	Transplant	As Needed until May
Lettuce	'Black Seeded Simpson'	6"	8	Either	As Needed until May
Beet	'Chioggia	4"	32	Direct Seed	End of May
Radish	'Plum Purple'	4"	64	Direct Seed	As Needed until May
Cauliflower	'Cheddar'	6"	8	Transplant	May
Parsley	'Giant From Italy'	4"	16	Transplant	As Needed until May

### **Special Notes:**

- For the plants that should be planted as transplants, start the seed indoors in sterile media in mid-January. Then, as temperatures warm up towards the beginning of March, gradually harden off the plants outside and then plant in the ground in mid-March. To harden off the plants, place them outside in part shade for a couple of hours during the day, then bring them in at night. The next day leave them out a little longer in brighter light. Continue exposing them to more and more outdoor temperatures and light until they can stay out all the time. This usually takes around a week. If these plants are not started as transplants, but are directly sown in March, they will not have enough time to produce a vegetable before the end of school year.
- It is important to directly seed root vegetables. Mix the radish and carrot seeds together before sowing. It's OK to plant the seeds thickly. Once they start to grow, go through and pull out extra seedlings so that the amount of space in between each plant is 4 inches (great measuring activity!).
- The peas need a support system. I recommend 3.5 foot bamboo stakes or other sturdy sticks sunk 6 inches into the ground at the beginning and end of each pea row. Then string jute rope or some other string horizontally at half foot intervals between the two poles.



# Schoolyard Edible Gardens

## Monthly Garden Activities

The following pages contain a list of suggested activities for each month in your edible garden. Enjoy your year of plenty!

### January

- Water everything well if a hard freeze is expected.
- Prune fruit trees (except for peach) and vines.
- Start early-spring vegetable seeds (broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage and kohlrabi) indoors.



### February

- Order spring seeds (lettuce, nasturtiums, swiss chard, mustard, carrots, beets and turnips) so that they can be directly seeded into the ground in March.
- Towards the end of the month, start long maturing, warm-season annual seeds (tomato, pepper and eggplant) indoors.

### March

- Plant spring vegetable transplants (broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, kohlrabi) outdoors. If you are planting transplants from seeds started in January, gently harden them off by placing them outside in part shade for a couple of hours during the first day. Gradually expose them to more and more outdoor temperatures and light until they can stay out all the time. This takes about a week.
- Directly sow lettuce, nasturtium, swiss chard, mustard, carrot, beet and turnip seeds into the soil.
- Start seeds of warm-season annuals (cucumber, melons, squash and beans) indoors.
- Regularly scout for pests, such as aphids, and diseases to address quickly.
- Regularly remove weeds.

### April

- After the threat of frost, plant warm season vegetables (tomato, pepper, eggplant, cucumber, melon, squash and beans) outdoors. The frost free date in Atlanta is usually April 15, but check your weather forecast to ensure warm weather.
- Regularly scout for pests, such as aphids, cabbage looper caterpillars and diseases.
- Regularly remove weeds.
- Harvest spring vegetables as needed.

### May

- Harvest spring vegetables as needed.
- Fertilize summer vegetables every 2-4 weeks with a balanced, water-soluble fertilizer such as organic fish emulsion and liquid kelp.
- Regularly scout for pests such as the squash vine borer caterpillar, Mexican bean beetles, cucumber beetles, squash beetle and diseases such as powdery mildew to address quickly.
- Regularly remove weeds.





# Schoolyard Edible Gardens

## June

- Harvest vegetables and herbs on a regular basis for continued production.
- Continue fertilizing every 2-4 weeks.
- Water vegetables regularly and make sure they get 1 inch of water per week.
- Regularly scout for pests and diseases to address quickly.
- Regularly remove weeds.

## July

- Cut back herbs like basil, oregano, and mint by one-third to promote branching.
- Continue fertilizing and watering regularly.
- Regularly scout for pests and diseases to address quickly.
- Regularly remove weeds.

## August

- Deeply water fruit trees that are in production.
- Harvest vegetables on a regular basis for continued production.
- Regularly scout for pests and diseases to address quickly.
- Regularly remove weeds.
- Start cool season vegetable seedlings (broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, peas, lettuce, kale, beets, turnips and swiss chard) outdoors in part sun.

## September

- Harvest the last tomatoes, peppers, etc.
- Mid-September remove summer veggies, amend and till for cool season crops.
- Plant cool season vegetable transplants.

## October

- Water new vegetables regularly.
- Fertilize fall vegetables every 2-4 weeks.
- Harvest vegetables as they mature.

## November

- Continue regular fertilizing and make sure vegetables are getting 1 inch of water per week.
- Harvest vegetables as they mature.

## December

- Plan garden renovations and new planting beds for next year.
- Water everything well if a hard freeze is expected.



# Schoolyard Edible Gardens

## Resources for Seeds:

Seeds of Change  
[www.seedsofchange.com](http://www.seedsofchange.com)

Johnny's Seeds  
[www.johnnyseeds.com](http://www.johnnyseeds.com)

Seed Savers Exchange  
[www.seedsavers.org](http://www.seedsavers.org)

Fedco  
[www.fedcoseeds.com](http://www.fedcoseeds.com)

## Resources for Plants:

Oakhurst Community Garden Project  
[www.oakhurstgarden.org](http://www.oakhurstgarden.org)

Farmer D's Organics  
[www.farmerd.com](http://www.farmerd.com)

Hastings  
[www.hastingsgardencenter.com](http://www.hastingsgardencenter.com)

Habershams  
[www.habershamgardens.com](http://www.habershamgardens.com)

