



# SCHOOL GARDEN PURPOSES AND CROP CARE



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## Purpose of Garden

There are many different uses for the crops and plants grown in the garden, which have implications for summer maintenance. Farm to School BC has a [School Garden Crop Planning Guide](#) optimized to reduce the harvest over the summer months.

Fall Garden Purposes	Sample Crops	Timeline (depends on your climate)	Labor/Maintenance	Food Preparation Ideas
<b>Fall Salad</b>	Salad greens (spinach, lettuce, pak choi, kale, mustard greens, fresh herbs, etc.)	<b>Plant in</b> August/ September  <b>Harvest after</b> 4 - 6 weeks	<b>Time commitment</b> 4 - 6 weeks  <b>Watering</b> Ideally daily	Salad bar with greens
<b>Fall Harvest (Fresh or Storage)</b>	Winter squash, herbs, brussel sprouts, broccoli, cabbage, beets, carrots, potatoes, tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers	<b>Plant in</b> April/May/June  <b>Maintain</b> July/August  <b>Harvest</b> September/ October	<b>Time commitment</b> 5 - 7 months  <b>Watering</b> ~Twice a week for plants like tomatoes, squash, peppers and root vegetables	Soups, hot meals, cold side dish to accompany a salad
<b>Fall Harvest (Preserve)</b>	Fresh herbs to dry, tomatoes (canning/drying), zucchini (freezing), fruit (fresh/drying/canning), beans (freezing)	<b>Plant in</b> April/May/June  <b>Maintain</b> July/August  <b>Harvest</b> September/ October	<b>Time commitment</b> 5 - 7 months	Dried herb packets, fruits sauces, canned tomato sauce, frozen fruit pies



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Other Garden Purposes	Sample Crops	Timeline (depends on your climate)	Labor/Maintenance	Food Preparation Ideas
<b>Seed Saving</b>	Dried beans, peas, beans, flowers (calendula, sunflowers), tomatoes, herbs (dill, basil, cilantro), lettuce, broccoli, kale, arugula, etc.	<b>Plant in</b> April/May/June  <b>Harvest seeds</b> September/October	<b>Time commitment</b> 5 - 7 months  little/no summer maintenance as things go to seed, and they dry out.	Dried beans can be cooked and eaten. Other seeds can be sold and/or saved for the following year.
<b>Summer Harvest</b>	Zucchini, tomatoes, peas, carrots, cucumbers, garlic, melons, peppers	<b>Plant in</b> March - June  <b>Maintain/Harvest</b> July - September	<b>Time commitment</b> 6 - 7 months  Many plants would need to be started early in the year from seed or purchase seedlings. Manage the number of plants to prevent too much food from being ready in the summer.	Serve fresh during the summer to share with community groups and preserve the excess.
<b>Native Plants / Perennials</b>	Edible perennials: Rhubarb, asparagus, herbs, haskaps, Oregon grape, blueberries, woodland strawberries, fruit trees	These perennials will grow back every year.  <b>Maintain/Harvest</b> May - September	<b>Time commitment</b> 2 - 4 months	Eat fresh or make into jams.
<b>Edible Flowers</b>	Edible Flowers: Borage, calendula, cosmos, sunflowers, pansies, herbs, nasturtium	<b>Plant in</b> March - June  <b>Maintain/Harvest</b> July - September	<b>Time commitment</b> 6 - 7 months  Low maintenance plants and provide food for pollinators.	Eat fresh, preserve (dried, added to balms, or canned), or save seeds.