

A35 Creating a term time harvest plan



This activity pulls together a range of ideas for harvesting every school term. This is exciting, although sometimes daunting. The trick is starting with a list of crops you want to grow, eg those from planning your crop rotation (A34). Next aim to have at least one crop ‘in season’ to harvest every month. Then gradually learn techniques to get better and more reliable harvests, such as protected cropping.

Resources

- Pen and paper

Activity

- 1 List the crops you’re growing. Write down when you plan to sow and harvest each, making a note on a calendar which months they will occupy the soil.
- 2 Take account of techniques to extend the seasons. See S3.3 for examples. Try the following.
 - a Use early and late varieties
 - b Start plants in modules
 - c Use protected cropping
 - d Sow in succession
 - e Store produce
 - f Plan for winter and spring harvest in particular
 - g Keep plants producing by harvesting regularly
 - h Select varieties that remain harvestable for a long time
 - i Pick crops while still young
- 3 Organise tasks in weekly job lists. These are handy for workshops (B6.2) and gardening clubs.

Table summary of crops

The next pages have a calendar adapted from the Food Growing Instruction Cards. This is intended as a started point for your own planning and job lists. The table covers the following.

- Sowing dates; indoors and out
- Plant out/transplant dates
- Harvest time
- When to use protected cropping, eg cloches.

Crops included:

- Vegetables
- Fruits
- Herbs



Health & Safety

Only eat plants you’re sure are safe. Always check with adults before trying.
See also *Health and Safety Guidelines (Section SG1.2)*

Further information

A32 Storing produce
S3.2 Planning crop rotation
S3.3 Harvesting each term
G4.9 Using protected cropping
Seed catalogues, eg Organic Gardening Catalogue www.organiccatalogue.com

Table summary of crops

Note: suggested months are a guide only. These are typical, so adjust these for your local weather conditions, such as the further north you are, the later the last frost is likely to be.

Vegetables	Spring Term			Summer Term					Autumn/Winter Term			
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Artichoke, Globe		■	■									
Artichoke, Jerusalem		■	■									
Asparagus			■	■								
Asparagus Pea				■	■	■						
Aubergine			■	■	■	■						
Bean, Broad		■	■	■	■	■					■	■
Bean, French				■	■	■	■					
Bean, Runner				■	■	■						
Beetroot			■	■	■	■						
Broccoli, Sprouting				■	■	■	■					
Brussels sprouts			■	■	■	■						
Cabbage, Chinese						■	■	■				■
Cabbage, Spring						■	■	■	■	■		
Cabbage, Summer and Autumn			■	■	■	■						
Cabbage, Winter and Savoy				■	■	■	■					
Calabrese				■	■	■	■					
Carrot		■	■	■	■	■						
Cauliflower			■	■	■	■	■					
Celery			■	■		■	■					
Chicory					■	■	■					
Courgette and Marrow					■	■						
Cucumber, Greenhouse			■	■	■							
Garlic	■	■										■

Key ■ Sow indoors ■ Sow outdoors ■ Plant out/transplant ■ Harvest 🌿 Use cloche

Vegetables	Spring Term			Summer Term					Autumn/Winter Term			
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Kale				■	■	■	■					
Kohl Rabi				■	■	■	■					
Leaf Beet				■	■	■	■					
Leek			■	■	■	■						
Lettuce		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Mushroom	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Okra		■	■			■	■					
Onion, Bulb			■	■								
Onion, Salad			■	■	■	■	■					
Parsnip		■	■	■	■							
Pea		■	■	■	■	■	■				■	■
Pepper		■	■		■	■						
Potato			■	■	■							
Pumpkin and Winter Squashes					■	■						
Radish		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Rocket		■	■	■	■	■			■	■		
Salad, Autumn and Winter								■	■	■		
Salad, Oriental			■	■	■	■		■	■	■		
Salad, Spring and Summer			■	■	■	■						
Salsify and Scorzonera				■	■							
Seakale			■	■	■	■	■					
Seed Sprouts	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Shallot		■	■	■								
Spinach, Annual			■	■	■	■	■		■	■		
Swede					■	■						

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Vegetables	Spring Term			Summer Term					Autumn/Winter Term			
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
<i>Sweetcorn</i>				■	■	■						
<i>Sweet Potato</i>					■	■	■					
<i>Tomato, indoor</i>			■	■	■							
<i>Tomato, outdoor</i>			■		■	■						
<i>Turnip</i>			■	■	■	■	■	■				
Fruit	Spring Term			Summer Term					Autumn/Winter Term			
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
<i>Apple</i>	■	■								■	■	■
<i>Blackberry and Hybrid Berry</i>	■	■								■	■	■
<i>Blackcurrant</i>	■	■								■	■	■
<i>Blueberry</i>	■	■								■	■	■
<i>Gooseberry</i>	■	■								■	■	■
<i>Grape, Dessert</i>	■	■								■	■	■
<i>Melon</i>				■	■	■						
<i>Pear</i>	■	■								■	■	■
<i>Plum</i>	■	■								■	■	■
<i>Raspberry</i>	■	■								■	■	■
<i>Red and Whitecurrant</i>	■	■								■	■	■
<i>Rhubarb</i>	■	■	■	■						■	■	■
<i>Strawberry</i>			■	■	■					■	■	■

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Herbs	Spring Term			Summer Term				Autumn/Winter Term				
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Balm, Lemon			■	■	■	■						
Basil			■	■	■	■						
Bay					■	■			■	■		
Chervil				■	■	■	■	■	■		🌿🌿	
Chives			■	■	■							
Coriander				■	■	■						
Dill				■	■	■	■					
Fennel			■	■	■							
Marjoram			■	■	■	■						
Mint			■	■	■							
Parsley			■	■	■	■				🌿🌿		
Rosemary					■	■			■	■		
Sage			■	■	■	■						
Sorrel			■	■	■					🌿🌿		
Tarragon			■	■	■	■						
Thyme			■	■	■	■						

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