Succession Planting

Keep Your Harvest Coming

It's not how much you can grow, it's about how much you can use:
- Fresh
- Canned
- Frozen
- Dehydrated
- Donate

Succession Planting

Resources

The information contained in Growing Groceries presentations is based on WSU home gardening publications and other science and research based materials. Resource lists are provided on the King County Growing Groceries website and at the end of some presentations.

To enliven the learning experience, speakers may use examples from their own garden experience and draw from their personal gardening successes and failures.

Succession planting assures your garden produces an abundance of crops
- Once a crop is harvested, it's time to make way for another
- What is the best use of your space? Avoid wasting it!
- Try integrating other techniques in conjunction with succession planting
Extend your harvest

With multiple sowings
For example, sow every two weeks for 3–4 plantings
Then sow the areas as you harvest
Well-suited 40–60 day maturing crops that are harvested once (turnips, beets, lettuce, and kohlrabi)

Days to Maturity

- Sow smaller amounts at 2–4 week intervals
- Varietal maturity varies
- Harvest at different stages of maturity
- Incorporate intercropping as you harvest and make space

Transplants

Have a source of transplants throughout the growing season
Start a nursery area

You might have a plan, but what is your backup if the growing season is early or late?

Seedling Nursery

Make a small space for seedlings in a garden bed.
Seedling Nursery

Start additional seedlings in flats or pots so they are ready to go as space opens up.

Seedlings can be started in empty container spaces for backups or fillers.

Underplanting

Sometimes referred to as “relay planting.” It can be starting the next crop before the previous is finished. e.g. planting lettuce or cornsalad under squash vines for a fall or winter crop.

You can start a cover crop under late-maturing crops for better germination.

Succession Using Interplanting

Crops can share space if they have different root zones or maturity dates:

- Broccoli (shallow roots) between melon or cucumber vines (medium roots)
- Lettuce (short time to maturity) under broccoli or cauliflower (longer to maturity)
- Radishes will come out before carrots germinate

(Do you have a rotation plan?)
Some Vegetable Root Zones

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timing and Location</th>
<th>Try a different spot&lt;br&gt;A shady spot might give you something at a different harvest time.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Timing of Sowing
As seasons change so will the frequency and volume of your sowing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seasonal Planning</th>
<th>Think about some Fall and Winter crops&lt;br&gt;Plant in summer or fall for winter or early spring harvest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

https://extension.wsu.edu/snohomish/fall-and-winter-vegetable-gardens-for-western-washington/

The Winter Harvest Handbook by Eliot Coleman
**Temperature & Germination**

Temperature can affect days to maturity

Lettuce germination 35° – 80° F

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Soil Temp</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>35° F (may rot)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>40° F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>50° F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>60° F (optimum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>77° F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>86° F (only 12%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*(The New Vegetable Growers Handbook by Frank Tozer)*

**Crops to Consider in July**

- Amaranth Greens
- Kohlrabi
- Spinach
- Asian Greens
- Lambsquarters
- Turnips
- Chinese Cabbage
- Lettuce
- Collards
- Orach
- Endive
- Purslane
- Escarole
- Radish
- Kale
- Radish, Daikon

**Crops to Consider in August**

- Beets
- Kale
- Turnips (greens)
- Broccoli Raab
- Lettuce
- Cabbage
- Chinese Cabbage
- Radishes, Daikon
- Asian Greens
- Cilantro
- Radicchio
- Cabbage
- Collards
- Scallions
- Corn Salad
- Cress
- Spinach
- Miner’s Lettuce
- Endive
- Swiss Chard

**Crops to Consider in September**

- Arugula
- Late September
- Late September
- Asian Greens
- Late September
- Late September
- Cabbage
- Fava Beans
- Snow Peas
- Corn Salad
- Beets
- Spinach
- Cress
- Carrots
- Swiss Chard
- Kale
- Cilantro
- Mustard
- Endive
- Radishes
- Escarole
- Turnip (greens)
- Lettuce
Crops to Consider in October

Fava Beans*
Garlic*
Multiplier Onions
Snow Peas
Shallots

* Also in November

Winter Gardening Chart

Check out Territorial Seed Company online chart for ideas.

Don’t Let the Space Go to Waste

• Have a plan to fill that empty space
• Stagger some of your plantings
• Have transplants ready to fill in
• Look for those hidden spaces
• Adjust your volumes as needed
• Use a cover crop if the space isn’t needed
• Keeping your soil healthy with rotation

Resources

Home Vegetable Gardening in Washington, EM057E
https://pubs.extension.wsu.edu/home-vegetable-gardening-in-washington-home-garden-series

Maritime Northwest Garden Guide: Planning Calendar for Year-Round Organic Gardening by Seattle Tilth


Territorial Seed Company catalog
GROWING YOUR OWN GROCERIES

Gardener Education
Supported by

http://www.mgfkc.org/resources/growinggroceries

Master Gardener Foundation of King County