

Garden Notebook



SPRING GARDENING CHECKLIST



Spring is when the season's workload really begins! Start seeds indoors for tomatoes, peppers, and other slow-to-mature crops, six to eight weeks before your last frost date. Prepare garden beds by working in compost or aged manure, and get any needed soil testing done early while there is still time to correct problems before planting.

As the soil warms and frost danger passes, direct-sow cold-hardy crops like peas, lettuce, and spinach, and begin hardening off any seedlings you started indoors before transplanting them out. Set up supports for peas, tomatoes, and anything else that will need a trellis or cage before it grows too large to handle easily.



1 START SEEDS INDOORS

Start seeds indoors for tomatoes, peppers, and other slow-to-mature crops, 6–8 weeks before your last frost date.



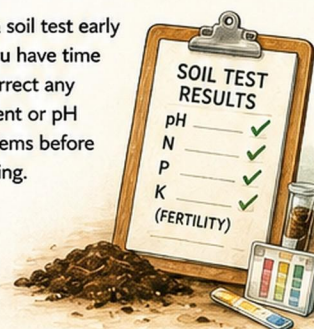
2 PREPARE GARDEN BEDS

Work compost or aged manure into the soil to improve fertility and structure.



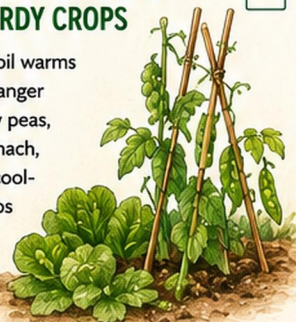
3 TEST YOUR SOIL

Get a soil test early so you have time to correct any nutrient or pH problems before planting.



4 DIRECT-SOW COLD-HARDY CROPS

Once the soil warms and frost danger passes, sow peas, lettuce, spinach, and other cool-season crops directly in the garden.



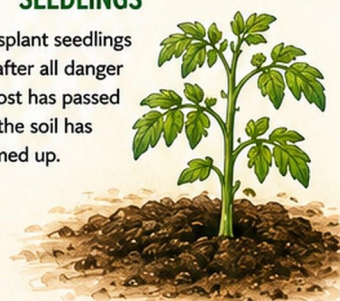
5 HARDEN OFF SEEDLINGS

Gradually acclimate indoor-started seedlings to outdoor conditions before transplanting them into the garden.



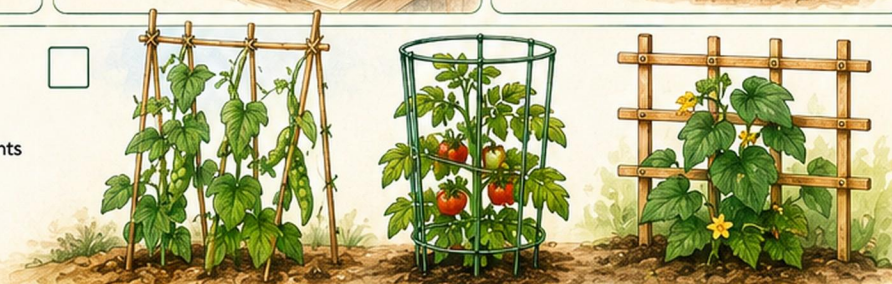
6 TRANSPLANT SEEDLINGS

Transplant seedlings out after all danger of frost has passed and the soil has warmed up.



7 SET UP SUPPORTS EARLY

Install trellises, cages, or stakes for peas, tomatoes, and other climbing or tall plants before they grow too large to handle.



A little prep in spring leads to a big harvest all season long!

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SUMMER GARDENING CHECKLIST

A little care today = a big harvest tomorrow!

Summer is about steady maintenance and keeping ahead of the garden's needs. Water deeply and consistently, especially during hot, dry stretches, and mulch around plants to help the soil hold moisture longer between waterings. Watch closely for pests and disease, since problems caught early are far easier to manage than ones left to spread.

Harvest regularly rather than letting crops sit. Beans, squash, and cucumbers in particular keep producing longer when picked often, and nothing sitting too long on the vine goes to waste. This is also the time to plant a second round of quick crops like bush beans or another lettuce sowing, keeping the garden productive rather than winding down early.

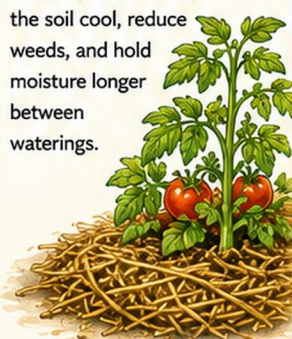
1 WATER DEEPLY AND CONSISTENTLY ☐

Water deeply at the base of plants, 1–2 inches per week. Do it early in the day to reduce evaporation and give plants time to dry before evening.



2 MULCH TO HOLD MOISTURE ☐

Add 2–3 inches of mulch around plants to keep the soil cool, reduce weeds, and hold moisture longer between waterings.



3 WATCH FOR PESTS AND DISEASE ☐

Check plants often. Catch pests and disease early when they're easy to remove or treat.



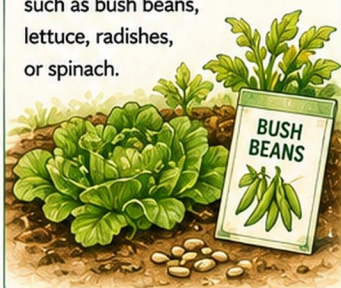
4 HARVEST REGULARLY ☐

Pick vegetables often to keep plants producing and to enjoy the best flavor.



5 PLANT A SECOND ROUND ☐

Sow quick crops again, such as bush beans, lettuce, radishes, or spinach.



6 KEEP PLANTS TOMATOES SUPPORTED AND TIED ☐

Check stakes, cages, and trellises. Tie up vines as needed to keep plants upright and healthy.



7 FEED YOUR PLANTS ☐

Side-dress with compost or a balanced fertilizer to keep plants growing strong and productive.



8 KEEP WEEDS UNDER CONTROL ☐

Weeds steal water and nutrients. Pull them early before they get big.



EXTRA TIPS FOR SUMMER SUCCESS



Check plants daily during hot weather. They can change quickly!



Pick beans, squash, and cucumbers often for the best yield.



After heavy rain, check for pests and disease.



Enjoy your harvest and share the abundance!



FALL GARDENING CHECKLIST

Fall brings a mix of harvest and cleanup. Watch for the point when cooler weather slows ripening on the vine, and harvest tomatoes and other tender crops before frost or heavy rain can damage them, rather than waiting until the last minute. Plant cool-season crops like lettuce, spinach, kale, and radishes for a fall harvest, and use row covers or cold frames to stretch the season further if an early frost threatens.

As plants finish for the year, pull spent or diseased growth and add the healthy debris to your compost pile. Loosen and enrich the soil with compost or aged manure so it is ready for spring, and save seeds from your best-performing plants while you are already out working the beds. A layer of mulch over bare soil helps protect it through the winter ahead.

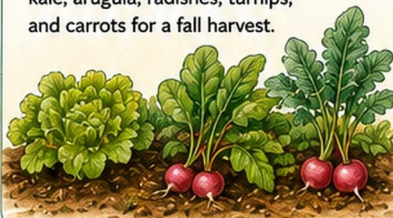
1 HARVEST BEFORE FROST

Pick tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, beans, and other tender crops before frost or heavy rain can damage them. Bring in any remaining green tomatoes to ripen indoors.



2 PLANT COOL-SEASON CROPS

Sow or transplant cool-season vegetables like lettuce, spinach, kale, arugula, radishes, turnips, and carrots for a fall harvest.



3 PROTECT FROM EARLY FROST

Use row covers, cloches, or cold frames to protect plants and extend your growing season.



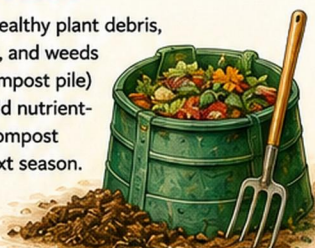
4 CLEAN UP SPENT PLANTS

Remove spent or diseased plants and crop debris from the garden beds.



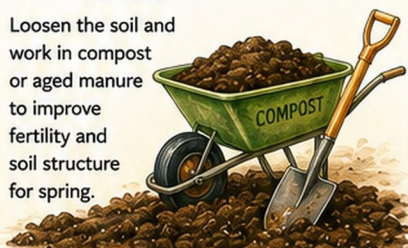
5 COMPOST HEALTHY DEBRIS

Add healthy plant debris, leaves, and weeds (to compost pile) to build nutrient-rich compost for next season.



6 PREPARE AND ENRICH THE SOIL

Loosen the soil and work in compost or aged manure to improve fertility and soil structure for spring.



7 SAVE SEEDS

Save seeds from your best-performing plants, such as tomatoes, beans, peppers, and herbs.



8 MULCH BARE SOIL

Add a 2-4 inch layer of mulch over bare soil to protect it from erosion and help retain moisture through the winter.



9 CLEAN AND STORE TOOLS

Clean tools thoroughly, sharpen blades, oil metal parts, and store in a dry place.



A LITTLE WORK
IN FALL MEANS
A BETTER GARDEN
NEXT SPRING!



BONUS FALL TASKS

- Check and store or protect cannas, dahlias, and other tender perennials.
- Divide and replant herbs like mint and chives.
- Plant spring-blooming bulbs.



- Rake leaves for mulch or compost.
- Plan next year's garden while the season is still fresh in your mind!

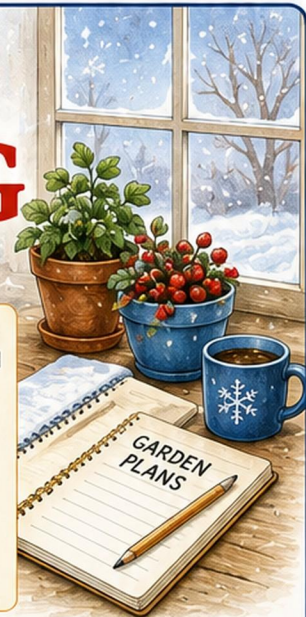


WINTER GARDENING CHECKLIST



Winter is quieter, but not idle. Clean, sharpen, and oil your tools before storing them, and take stock of what worked well this past season and what you would do differently next time while it is still fresh in your mind. Order seed catalogs and start planning next year's garden, including any crop rotation you want to work in.

Toward the end of winter, begin your seed-starting schedule for the coming spring, working backward from your last frost date so slow-growing crops like tomatoes and peppers have enough time indoors before it is warm enough to plant them out.



1 CLEAN, SHARPEN & OIL TOOLS ☐

Clean dirt and sap off tools. Sharpen blades and edges. Oil metal parts to prevent rust before storing for the season.



2 TAKE STOCK & REFLECT ☐

Review your garden notes. What worked well? What challenges did you face? What would you do differently next time?



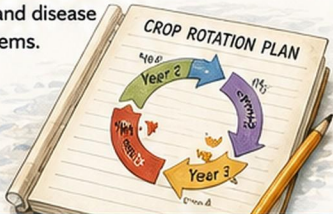
3 ORDER SEED CATALOGS & PLAN AHEAD ☐

Browse seed catalogs, make a wish list, and plan your garden layout and crop rotation for next year.



4 PLAN CROP ROTATION & GARDEN LAYOUT ☐

Rotate crops to improve soil health and reduce pest and disease problems.



5 CHECK & MAINTAIN GARDEN STRUCTURES ☐

Inspect trellises, cages, raised beds, and fencing. Make repairs now so they're ready in spring.



6 COMPOST & SOIL PREP PLANNING ☐

Turn or add to your compost pile if weather allows. Plan soil amendments and order what you may need.



7 PROTECT PERENNIALS & FRUIT PLANTS ☐

Mulch around perennials, berries, and fruit trees for winter protection. Wrap or guard young trees if needed.



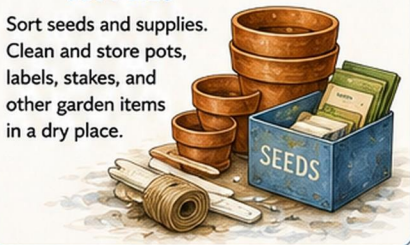
8 BEGIN SEED-STARTING SCHEDULE ☐

Work backward from your last frost date. Start seeds indoors for slow-growing crops like tomatoes, peppers, and eggplant.



9 ORGANIZE & STORE SUPPLIES ☐

Sort seeds and supplies. Clean and store pots, labels, stakes, and other garden items in a dry place.



WINTER REMINDERS



Check the weather and protect plants from extreme cold or heavy snow.



Keep your garden journal up to date all winter long.



Enjoy the quiet season—plan, learn, and get excited for spring!



A little time spent now leads to a better garden tomorrow!



Notes

