

“Warm Weather” School Garden Planting Guide

Vegetable	When to Plant	What to Plant	Depth/ Spacing	Varieties	Days to Harvest	Notes	Date Planted
Arugula	By mid March for Spring harvest	Seeds	1/4" (broadcast)	Astro; Rocket; Sylvestra	21-40	Bolts quickly in hot temps; also becomes spicier.	
Beans, Yardlong	mid-March thru mid-May	Seeds	1" /3"	Gita; Red Noodle; Asparagus; Asian varieties	60-85	Heat tolerant; trellis; harvest pencil-thin pods; 14-30"	
<i>Beans, bush</i>	Late Feb. thru mid-March	Seeds	1" /6"	Contender; Provider; Derby; filet beans	50-57	Plant no later than mid-March for May harvest	
Beans, pole	late March thru April	Seeds	1" /6"	Dade or Fortex; most grow well	50-60	Interplant w/sugar snap peas; trellis; harvest regularly	
*Corn	early March	Seeds	1" /12"	(Large ears) Silver Queen; Florida Staysweet (Minature) Chires Baby Sweet (may be hard to find)	65-90	Minimum of 4 sq. ft.; not highly productive; may ripen in June (depends on variety & temps)	
<i>Cucumber</i>	Planting #1. March-mid-April Planting #2. Mid-April-July	Seeds	1/2" /6-12"	Planting #1: Mediterrean, Armenian, pickling var. Planting #2: Suyo Long (Japanese var.)	48-63	Soil temps must be 65-85 deg. for best germination; Plant along trellis; two plantings at 6 weeks apart.	
Edamame	Early to mid-March	Seeds	1" /6"	Edible green soybean (Evergreen Seeds)	75	Plant early March for harvest by end of May.	
<i>Eggplant</i>	April-early May	Transplant	Same depth	Asian varieties; Louisiana long green; Black Beauty	65	Loves heat; survives summer if watered weekly	
Hibiscus, Roselle	April	Seeds	1/2" /18" (presoak)	Thai Red	90	Tangy & lemony. Flowers/leaves edible. Tea from calaxes.	
Lima beans	March	Seeds	1" /6"	Speckled varieties; early varieties	70-90	Bush, 70 days/ Pole, 90 days; harvest lasts 12 weeks	
<i>Okra</i>	April	Seeds	1/2" /18" (presoak)	Clemson Spineless; Zee best; Beck's Snapping	55	Summer school harvests; harvest daily, pods harden fast	
<i>Peas, Southern</i>	April-May	Seeds	2" /12"	Black-eyed, Zipper Cream; Purple Hull	75	Great summer cover crop; harvest green or (dried) brown	
<i>Pepper (Sweet/Hot)</i>	March	Transplant	Same depth; 18" spacing	(Hot) Jalapeno; tabasco; cayenne; serrano (Sweet) Big Bertha; Anaheim; Gypsy; Banana	65	Add 1 tsp. rock phosphate to planting hole & set plant roots directly onto phosphate to grow strong roots.	
<i>Squash (summer)/Zucchini</i>	Late February-mid March	Seeds	1-2" /18"	Patty Pan; yellow crookneck; Zephyr; Tatume	45-60	Plant early in pots & transplant; stem borers a problem	
*Squash (winter)	March-April	Seeds	1.5" /30"	Seminole or Tahitian; butternut	90-130	Tropical varieties for our climate do best	
<i>Sweet potato</i>	May-June	Slips	Transplant deep, 9" spacing	Beauregard, Georgia Jet; Oakleaf (heirloom)	90 Fall harvest	Slips difficult to find locally. Buy online or grow your own. Hill down middle of bed. Protect with mulch.	
Radish	By end of Feb. for Spring harvest	seeds	1/4" (broadcast)	French Breakfast; Easter Egg	30	Cool weather crop; plant last round by mid-Feb.	
<i>Tomato</i>	Late February-mid March	Transplants	Transplant deep	Sweet Chelsea; Sweet 100, Sweet Million; Sun Gold; Juliet; Early Girl; heirlooms	60	Add 1 tsp. rock phosphate; cage & wrap with frost cloth until last frost; feed at planting & when flowers appear.	
<i>Watermelon</i>	April	seeds	1-2" /18"	Sugar Baby; Little Baby Flower; Bush Sugar Baby (3 ft. vines); Moon & Stars (large, heirloom)	76	Soil must be warm for germination. Trellis to contain vines; support small varieties with slings.	
Herbs							
Basil	April-May	Seeds	1/4" (broadcast)	Genovese/sweet; lemon; Thai (for teas)	60	Loves summer heat!	
Garlic chives	February-April	Transplants	Same depth	Get sets or transplants	30-45	Perennial; grows anywhere even poor habitat soils	
Flowers (Habitat/Garden)							
Sunflower	March-April	seeds	1-2" /15"	Non-hybrid (for seeds); cut varieties	70	Pre-soak seed to aid germination	
Zinnia	April-May	seeds	1/4" (broadcast)	"Cut-n-Come-Again" varieties	45-60	Allow some flowers to form seed for next year	

School Garden Planting Guide based on *Year Round Vegetables, Fruits and Flowers for Metro Houston*, by Dr. Bob Randall & modified for a 10-month school year.