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# An Aucklander's Vegetable Planting and Maintenance Guide

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## JANUARY



**Plant** - basil, beetroot, beans, capsicum, chilli, coriander, courgette, cucumber, eggplant, lettuce, mesclun, parsley, pumpkin and squash, radish, rocket, silverbeet, spinach, spring onions, sweetcorn, tomatoes.

**Harvest** - basil, beetroot, beans, broccoli, cabbage, capsicum, carrot, cauliflower, celery, chilli, coriander, courgette, cucumber, eggplant, lettuce, mesclun, parsley, potatoes, pumpkin and squash, radish, rocket, silverbeet, spinach, spring onion, sweetcorn, tomatoes, apricots.

### GARDEN MAINTENANCE:

- Replenish your soil's nutrients before planting new crops
- Your tomatoes will begin ripening. Leave them to ripen on the vine or plant to ensure maximum flavour. Stake your plants to support them and, if needed, rig up some netting to keep the birds from helping themselves to your fruit! Keep up the watering too!
- Apply mulch to assist with moisture retention
- To encourage more growth and protect your potato crop from sun damage, be sure to mound up the soil around the plant's leaves.

## FEBRUARY



**Plant** - basil, beetroot, beans, broccoli, capsicum, chilli, coriander, courgette, eggplant, leek, lettuce, mesclun, onion, parsnip, parsley, potatoes, pumpkin and squash, radish, rhubarb, rocket, silverbeet, spinach, spring onions, tomatoes.

**Harvest** - basil, beetroot, beans, capsicum, carrot, chilli, coriander, courgette, cucumber, eggplant, lettuce, mesclun, parsley, potatoes, pumpkin and squash, radish, rocket, silverbeet, spinach, spring onion, sweetcorn, tomatoes, apricots

### GARDEN MAINTENANCE:

- Your garden is about to endure one of the hottest months of the year. Ensure that it is well-fed and well-watered so that your crops survive the elements.
- Continue to keep mounding your potatoes as you did in January. Be sure to water the soil, not the leaves and clear all weeds - weeds will only hijack any water source and starve your crops of hydration.
- Stake sweetcorn and protect against the wind if needed
- To ensure that your tomato fruit is not deprived of light, remove any excess leaves.
- Replenish your soil's nutrients before planting new crops.
- Add generous layers of mulch or compost to vegetable beds to conserve water, minimise weeds and increase the nutrient value of your soil.

## MARCH



**Plant** - basil, beetroot, bok choy, broccoli, cabbage, capsicum, carrot, cauliflower, celery, coriander, eggplant, kale, leek, lettuce, mesclun, onion, parsnip, parsley, potatoes, radish, rhubarb, rocket, silverbeet, spinach, spring onions.

**Harvest** - basil, beetroot, beans, capsicum, chilli, coriander, courgette, cucumber, eggplant, lettuce, mesclun, parsley, potatoes, pumpkin and squash, radish, rhubarb, rocket, silverbeet, spinach, spring onion, tomatoes, sweetcorn.

### GARDEN MAINTENANCE:

- Replenish your soil's nutrients before planting new crops.
- If you are saving seeds from your garden, dry them out and store them in labelled envelopes in readiness for sowing in the spring.
- Plant your carrots in thin, even rows
- Lettuces can do well at this time of year. Cos and the red-leaved varieties grow best.
- Now is the time to dig up your potatoes! Store them in a sack, away from direct sunlight. Ensure there is plenty of airflow within the bag.
- Ensure your tomato fruit is getting enough sunlight - remove any leafy stems that may be preventing the fruit from accessing the sun.
- Check your crops for any signs of bug or environmental damage and treat them accordingly.

## APRIL



**Plant** - beetroot, bok choy, broccoli, cabbage, carrot, cauliflower, celery, coriander, kale, leek, lettuce, mesclun, onion, parsnip, parsley, peas, radish, rhubarb, rocket, silverbeet, spinach.

**Harvest** - basil, beetroot, bok choy, beans, broccoli, capsicum, chilli, coriander, courgette, cucumber, eggplant, kale, lettuce, mesclun, parsley, parsnip, potatoes, pumpkin and squash, radish, rhubarb, rocket, silverbeet, spinach, spring onion, sweetcorn, tomatoes.

### GARDEN MAINTENANCE:

- Enrich your soil with compost and other nutrients in readiness for new crops
- Ensure your beans are supported and well-watered
- Plant your carrots in thin, even rows
- Sweetcorn plants can be removed once finished and composted or disposed of in your green waste.
- Leave tomatoes to ripen, but only if the plants are in good health. If not, remove plants and ripen fruit inside in a sunny spot.
- Be on the lookout for signs of slugs and snails, and treat for any bugs if applicable.



## MAY



**Plant** - beetroot, bok choy, broccoli, cabbage, carrot, cauliflower, celery, coriander, garlic, kale, lettuce, mesclun, onion, parsnip, parsley, peas, radish, rhubarb, rocket, silverbeet, spinach.

**Harvest** - basil, beetroot, bok choy, broccoli, cabbage, capsicum, carrot, cauliflower, celery, chilli, coriander, courgette, cucumber, eggplant, kale, leek, lettuce, onion, parsley, parsnip, potatoes, radish, rhubarb, rocket, silverbeet, spinach, spring onion, tomatoes.

### GARDEN MAINTENANCE:

- Enrich your soil with compost and other nutrients in readiness for new crops
- Pick pumpkins and tidy up the vines, removing them from any area that you want to clear.
- Ensure your herbs are protected from the cooler evening conditions and possible frost exposure.
- Be on the lookout for slugs and snails; they will be coming for your seedlings!

## JUNE



**Plant** - broccoli, cabbage, carrot, coriander, garlic, kale, lettuce, mesclun, onion, parsley, parsnip, peas, radish, rhubarb, rocket, silverbeet, spinach, rosemary, thyme.

**Harvest** - beetroot, bok choy, broad beans, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, carrots, celery, kale, lettuce, mesclun, onions, parsnip, shallots, radish, rocket, silverbeet, spinach.

### GARDEN MAINTENANCE:

- Leave parsnips and yams in the ground until you need them.
- Rhubarb - lift and divide older rhubarb crowns while the plants are dormant.
- Feed crops with your preferred product to ensure they receive the nutrients they need to survive the winter.
- Ensure plants are protected from winter conditions and possible frost exposure.

## JULY



**Plant** - asparagus, broccoli, cabbage, carrot, garlic, kale, lettuce, mesclun, onion, parsley, parsnip, peas, radish, rhubarb, rocket, silverbeet, spinach.

**Harvest** - bok choy, broccoli, cabbage, carrot, celery, kale, lettuce, mesclun, onions, parsley, parsnip, peas, potatoes, radish, rhubarb, rocket, silverbeet, spinach.

### GARDEN MAINTENANCE:

- Maintain asparagus beds by lifting and dividing overcrowded beds and planting new crowns.
- Now is the time to start sprouting new season seed potato seed in readiness for planting in August.
- Be sure to stake your broad bean plants. They will need support as they grow.
- Be on the lookout for slugs and snails; they will be coming for your plants.
- Feed your garden beds before planting garlic and shallots.
- General weed maintenance - keep your garden weed-free. Mulch can help to keep weeds under control.

## AUGUST



**Plant** - asparagus, beetroot, bok choy, broccoli, cabbage, carrot, cauliflower, celery, coriander, kale, lettuce, mesclun, onion, parsley, parsnip, peas, potatoes, pumpkin and squash, radish, rhubarb, rocket, silverbeet, spinach, spring onions, sweetcorn, tomatoes.

**Harvest** - broccoli, cabbage, carrot, cauliflower, kale, lettuce, mesclun, onions, parsley, parsnip, peas, radish, rhubarb, rocket, silverbeet, spinach.

### GARDEN MAINTENANCE:

- Enrich your soil with compost and other nutrients in readiness for new crops
- Dig over your potato beds to a depth of 30 cm before planting. Mix a generous amount of compost and nutrients through the soil.
- Plant your tomato plants
- Be on the lookout for slugs and snails; they will be coming for your seedlings!
- Feed crops with your preferred product to ensure they have enough nutrients to flourish.
- General weed maintenance - keep your garden weed-free. Mulch can help keep weeds under control, especially in areas that will remain empty for longer.

## SEPTEMBER

As temperatures warm you can start planting key summer crops.



**Plant** - asparagus, basil, beetroot, bok choy, beans, cabbage, capsicum, carrot, cauliflower, celery, chilli, coriander, courgette, cucumber, eggplant, kale, lettuce, mesclun, parsley, parsnip, peas, potatoes, pumpkin and squash, radish, rhubarb, rocket, silverbeet, spinach, spring onions, sweetcorn, tomatoes.

**Harvest** - beetroot, bok choy, broccoli, cabbage, carrot, cauliflower, celery, coriander, kale, lettuce, mesclun, onions, parsley, parsnip, peas, radish, rhubarb, silverbeet, spinach.

### GARDEN MAINTENANCE:

- Feed potatoes to promote healthy tuber production and plant growth.
- Plant tomatoes
- Be on the lookout for slugs and snails; they will be coming for your seedlings!
- Feed your garden with your preferred product to ensure nutrient levels are high.

## OCTOBER



**Plant** - asparagus, basil, beetroot, bok choy, beans, cabbage, capsicum, carrot, cauliflower, celery, chilli, coriander, courgette, cucumber, eggplant, leek, lettuce, mesclun, parsley, potatoes, pumpkin and squash, radish, rhubarb, rocket, silverbeet, spinach, spring onions, sweetcorn, tomatoes.

**Harvest** - basil, beetroot, bok choy, beans, broccoli, cabbage, carrot, cauliflower, celery, coriander, kale, lettuce, mesclun, onions, parsley, parsnip, peas, radish, rhubarb, rocket, silverbeet, spinach, spring onion.

### GARDEN MAINTENANCE:

- Feed tomato plants
- Feed you potatoes each month
- As potato plants appear through the surface, mound up the soil around the leaves; this will protect the crop from the sun and encourage a bigger harvest.
- Be sure to weed around your garlic and shallot plants.
- Herbs - cut back sage, thyme and mint to encourage new growth for the summer months.
- Monitor your garden for signs of bugs and treat it accordingly
- Your tomato plants will be growing, as they do, remove any lateral growth (laterals are the shoots that extend from the side of the stem); this promotes the growth of bigger and better tomatoes.
- Water tomato plants at the base; this will reduce the chances of blight.



## NOVEMBER



**Plant** - asparagus, basil, beetroot, beans, cabbage, capsicum, carrot, chilli, coriander, courgette, cucumber, eggplant, kumara, lettuce, mesclun, parsley, potatoes, pumpkin and squash, radish, rocket, silverbeet, spinach, spring onions, sweetcorn, tomatoes.

**Harvest** - asparagus, basil, beetroot, bok choy, beans, broccoli, cabbage, carrot, cauliflower, celery, coriander, courgette, cucumber, kale, lettuce, mesclun, parsley, parsnip, peas, potatoes, radish, rocket, silverbeet, spinach, spring onion, sweetcorn, tomatoes.

### GARDEN MAINTENANCE:

- Watch out for snails and slugs and treat accordingly
- Look out for signs of mildew on courgettes and cucumbers and treat if needed
- Feed and water your tomato plants. Remember to water at the base of the plant to reduce the chance of blight. Add a layer of mulch to your tomato bed; this will help maintain good moisture levels in the soil and keep the weeds at bay!
- Keep mounding the soil around potato plants to encourage a bigger harvest and protect your crop from the sun.
- Be sure to establish a regular planting cycle of salad greens, radishes and spring onion in readiness for fresh summer salads.
- Plant your kumara now.

## DECEMBER



**Plant** - basil, beetroot, beans, capsicum, chilli, coriander, courgette, cucumber, eggplant, lettuce, mesclun, parsley, pumpkin and squash, radish, rocket, silverbeet, spinach, spring onions, sweetcorn, tomatoes.

**Harvest** - basil, beetroot, beans, broccoli, cabbage, capsicum, carrot, cauliflower, celery, chilli, coriander, courgette, cucumber, eggplant, garlic, lettuce, mesclun, parsley, parsnip, peas, potatoes, pumpkin and squash, radish, rocket, silverbeet, spinach, spring onion, sweetcorn, tomatoes.

### GARDEN MAINTENANCE:

- Your seedlings will now be ready for transfer to your garden beds
- Keep feeding your tomatoes
- Look out for signs of bugs, snails and slugs; they can very quickly cause damage to your garden. Regular treatments will keep these pests at bay.
- Have an insect spray on hand to blast any unwanted visitors as you sight them.
- Look out for signs of mildew on courgettes and cucumbers and treat if needed.
- Onions and garlic will soon be ready for harvest. Once they are ready, the leaves of both plants will begin to wither and die. To harvest your crops, dig them out with a garden fork, shake off the excess soil and leave them to dry in the sun for a few days. They will be ready once the skins take on a paper-like appearance—store crops in a cool, dry place.