

		<h1>Lower Columbia School Gardens - Monthly Planting Guide</h1>	
		<h2>AUGUST</h2>	USDA Hardiness ZONE 8b
CROP		NOTES	
Flowers (out)	Bachelor Buttons, Breadseed Poppy, Delphinium, Mallow, Nigella, Phacelia, Saffron Crocus	If sowed directly in the garden in early August these flowers will bloom in late Fall and add a beautiful contrast to changing leaves.	
<i>Fall + Winter Veg</i> sow directly in garden throughout Aug	Beets, broccoli raab, carrots, chervil, cilantro, collards, lettuce, onions, radishes, scallions, spinach, Swiss chard	Sowing Fall greens and roots now will provide a healthy and nutritious harvest in October. Cover crops with a cloche when nighttime temps fall below 45 degrees to extend the harvest.	
<i>Fall + Winter Veg</i> sow directly in garden late Aug	Arugula, Asian greens, cabbage, winter lettuce, mustard, spinach	The end of August can sometimes mean slightly cooler weather, which makes perfect conditions for Fall greens and overwintering salad crops.	
<i>Fall + Winter Veg</i> sow in pots for transplant in Sept	Kale, lettuce, mustard, spinach, Swiss chard	Whether you plant in pots or directly in the garden, be sure to start all Fall + Winter veggies in a shaded, cool location and water consistently.	

- **Turn compost and screen it for use in the Fall or Spring garden**

- **How to tell if your compost is ready for use?** Harvest compost when it looks like dark, rich soil. It can be screened through ½-inch wire mesh before mixing into garden soil or just be mixed in as is. Large pieces can be used as mulch or returned to the pile.
- **Using compost in the garden:** add compost in the Fall or Spring, when soil is dry enough to work. Mix into top 6-8 inches or use as topdressing.
 - New veggie beds: dig in 2-4 inches of compost.
 - Existing veggie beds: dig in ½-2 inches of compost.
 - If digging isn't an option, spread 1 inch of compost on top of well-weeded soil.

- **Powdery mildew** is a fungus that can show up on plants this time of year - especially grapes and members of the squash family (cucumbers, melons, pumpkins, summer + winter squash).

- **An easy non-toxic homemade spray** can be made by mixing a *quarter-pound of garlic, 1 quart of water and 1 TBSP of vegetable oil* for 10 minutes in a blender. Remove the solids with a cheesecloth and dilute the solution 1:10 with water before spraying on plants.
- **Adding a topdressing of good compost** around the main stem of squash family and grape plants every few weeks can also help increase their resistance - plants tend to be more resilient and less prone to diseases when they are grown in healthy soil.

- **Harvest time:** apples, artichokes, arugula, Asian greens, basil, runner beans (4 - 6" long pods, but also allow some to fully mature), snap beans, shelling beans, blackberries, blueberries, broccoli, cabbage, calendula, carrots, cauliflower, celery, cherries, cilantro, collards, sweet corn, cucumbers, currants, dill, eggplant, fennel, figs, garlic, gooseberries, ground cherries, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, melons, nasturtiums, storage + sweet onions, parsley, parsnips, peaches, peppers, potatoes, raspberries, scallions, strawberries, summer squash, sunflowers, Swiss chard, tomatillos, tomatoes, and turnips.