

SEASONAL TASK LISTS

for every zone



WINTER

- Obtain indoor seed starting supplies
- Organize leftover and saved seeds
- Order new seeds
- Clean and sharpen garden tools
- Disinfect plastic containers used in indoor seed starting last year
- Decide which mulch you plan to use ([here are 9 ideas](#))
- Start seeds indoors
- Purchase a garden planner ([like this one](#))
- Take steps [like these](#) to pre-plan what you want your garden to look like
- Plan your next season's garden ([this course](#) will walk you through it step by step)
- Obtain new garden tools you need



SPRING

before your last frost has passed

- Plant cool season crops directly in the garden (usually 4 weeks before your average last frost date)
- Cover susceptible crops with insect netting
- Plant bushes and trees
- Fill any new raised beds with soil
- Amend old raised beds (and ground beds) with new compost
- Weed and mulch where garlic is growing if you planted in the fall
- Add fertilizer to perennial bushes if needed
- Set up compost bin/tumbler
- Remove half of the mulch from garlic and

strawberry beds if they are starting to grow, IF you had added a heavy layer before winter

- Build/add new trellises or vertical supports
- Walk garden daily

after your last frost has passed

- Plant out warm season transplants
- Direct sow warm season crops
- Lay down soaker hoses or drip lines
- Keep garden weeded
- Apply a new layer of mulch after all seedlings are at least 6" tall
- Begin checking plants for pest damage
- Walk garden daily



SUMMER

anytime in the summer

- Pull weeds and add to compost before they go to seed
- Remove diseased plants from the garden
- Fertilize container vegetables every other week with liquid fertilizer
- Prune tomato plants if desired
- Set irrigation system on an automatic timer
- Walk garden daily

before summer harvest begins

- Obtain any necessary [preserving supplies](#)
- List the [ways you plan to preserve your harvest](#)
- Harvest herbs for drying before summer heat sets in

during summer harvest

- Begin planning for succession plantings for garden areas that will be bare after harvest (like areas where bush beans, potatoes, garlic, onions, determinate tomatoes, etc. are harvesting)

after summer harvest declines

- Remove spent and dead plants IF diseased or if you plan to plant fall crops in that space (otherwise, leave in place for winter—[here's why](#))
- Add a 1-2" layer of compost on top of the soil
- Plant succession plantings of food crops or plant a quick-growing cover crop in bare areas that have been harvested (ideas: bush beans, summer squash, buckwheat)

prep for fall garden (around July)

- List crops you want to plant/grow in the fall
- Order seeds for fall crops if necessary
- Start slow-maturing fall crops indoors (brussels sprouts, broccoli, cabbage, etc.)
- Order garlic for fall planting
- Write planting dates (indoor sowing, outdoor direct sowing, and transplanting) on your calendar ([more on what and when to plant here](#))



FALL

anytime in the fall

- [Get a soil test](#) if needed
- Add compost and/or mulch to any bare areas of the garden
- OR [plant a cover crop](#) in any of those bare areas
- [Collect seeds](#) you intend to save
- Build new structures, like raised beds or trellises, to have in place before next season
- Empty compost bin/tumbler and put contents on bare garden areas (it's okay if it's not fully broken down yet; it'll break down in the garden over the winter)
- Purchase, build, or revamp your compost bin/tumbler/system
- Add "brown" materials to the compost bin so you can collect "green" materials (kitchen scraps) over the winter and [keep composting](#)
- If purchasing mulch in bulk, obtain it in the fall so it's ready to go in the spring
- Shred fallen deciduous leaves and place in a pile for easy access in the spring, OR add them directly to bare garden areas
- Put away temporary trellises
- Rearrange trellis placement in garden
- Mulch perennial beds (asparagus, berry bushes, etc.)
- Organize garden supply area (like a shed or garden work area)
- Move susceptible planters into a covered location if they will be vulnerable to cold in your winter climate

before first frost

- Plant fall crops (both transplants and direct sow plants)
- Cover brassicas (broccoli, cabbage, brussels sprouts, etc.) with insect netting
- Shade young fall crops on hot days (over 90°F) if necessary
- [Prepare garlic bed](#) for planting
- Add floating row covers to protect frost-sensitive plants and extend their season
- Harvest herbs for drying
- Harvest frost-sensitive crops before the first frost
- [Begin saving seeds](#) from open-pollinated plants

after first frost

- Plant garlic
- Add floating row covers or cold frames to fall/winter crops, if necessary
- Disconnect soaker hoses or drip lines
- Harvest freeze-sensitive crops before nighttime temps drop below 25-28°F
- Relax and enjoy your off-season!