



## Tips for the Conway School Garden Champions

March, 2019

### School Garden activities for March


- Plant out cool season vegetables ([Broccoli](#), [cabbage](#), [chard](#), greens, [lettuce](#), peas, [root veggies](#)) and flowers
- Plant berry bushes
- Start seeds of warm season vegetables indoors (eggplant, [peppers](#), [tomatoes](#)) and flowers
- [Direct seed](#) outdoors any cool season greens and [root crops](#) like [beets](#), [carrots](#), [onions](#), [radishes](#) and [turnips](#)
- Finish pruning while woody plants are still dormant


### Planting Time is at Hand


A wet February has limited the efforts to get a spring garden started. But now is the time we can begin to plant the cool season vegetables. English and snap peas are the most cold hardy, followed by greens, then the Cole crops- cabbage, broccoli, Brussels sprouts and cauliflower. Transplants should begin appearing in garden centers later this month. Greens, spinach and carrots can be planted from seeds, and onion sets and transplants, along with seed potatoes will appear at the end of the month. Cool season gardening season is from February through mid-April. It is **WAY** too early to plant the warm season lovers, like tomatoes and peppers transplants, but there is plenty of other vegetables to plant.

<https://www.uaex.edu/yard-garden/vegetables/docs/planting-dates-spring-summer-vegetables.pdf>

Spring bulbs are beginning to make an appearance. Crocus and early daffodils are blooming. After that come hyacinths, tulips and then flowering onions. When you see flower buds emerging in your foliage, that is the time to put out some complete fertilizer (such as 13-13-13) to aid in bud set for next year. Remember to keep the foliage happy and healthy for at least six weeks after bloom. This will result in new bulbs being produced for next year.

 Decide what vegetables you wish to plant. If your space is limited, plant only vegetables that are liked by your family, but keep nutrition in mind. You might find it helpful to draw a garden diagram to find out if you have enough space to grow needed quantities. Don't forget repeat plantings. Some vegetables may be planted each month. This will greatly decrease the amount of space needed and keep the garden full for its most efficient use.

 Many gardeners tend to stop after they have harvested their spring-planted crop. This is a serious mistake. Many crops that are normally planted in the spring grow as well or better in the fall. While insects and diseases are sometimes more of a problem in early fall, yields and quality are often better than in the spring.

 Choose a variety well adapted to Arkansas. Environment may cause certain ones to perform poorly. Recommended varieties for Arkansas can be found in the [Home Gardening Series fact sheets](#). A lot of detailed information on growing each specific vegetable is provided along with answers to common problems. Other good varieties are available and should be used where past performance is proven.

## School Garden Planting Chart

<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>
Carrots (66-75)	Apply and Incorporate Compost
Broccoli (50-75)	Prune Fruit Trees and Shrubs
Apply and Incorporate Compost	Strawberries (1-5 years)
Prune Fruit Trees and Shrubs	Asparagus (Perennial)
Cabbage (60-82)	Lettuce (45-65)+
Collards (50-75)	Carrots (66-75)+
Brussels Sprouts (95)	Kohlrabi (50)
Swiss Chard (60)	Radish (24-30)+
Beets (54-68)	Cauliflower (66)
Radish (24-30)	Cabbage (60-82)
Lettuce (45-65)	Broccoli (50-75)+
Kale (55)+	Sweet Corn (80-94)
Mustard (40-50)	Mustard (40-50)
Turnips (40-55)	Turnips (40-55)
Irish Potatoes (90-110)	Swiss Chard (60)
Onions (80-120)	Beets (54-68)+
English Peas (60-70)	Irish Potatoes (90-110)
Spinach (42)	Onions (80-120)+
( ) = Days from planting to harvest	Spinach (42)+
+ = Seeds available from Extension office	English Peas (60-70)+
	(Some seed is newer than others)

These indoor gardening activities with detailed lesson plans can be found on the following Kidsgardening website:



**Journey to the Center of a Seed**

<https://kidsgardening.org/lesson-plans-journey-to-the-center-of-a-seed/> (Grades K-4)

**Germination Exploration**

<https://kidsgardening.org/lesson-plans-germination-exploration/> (Grades 2- 5)

There are several local Faulkner County Master Gardeners that would be interested in working with school gardens. If interested in the potential of having Master Gardeners assist with your school garden please contact me at [raklerk@uaex.edu](mailto:raklerk@uaex.edu)

Happy Early Spring Gardening!

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