



GROW AT SCHOOL

YEAR 1 GARDEN PLAN





INTRODUCTION

- This garden plan is designed with schools in mind. It focusses on 14 different types of veg that are ideal for school growing. This means they will be ready to harvest before the end of the school year in June or from September onwards. The school garden can be left unmanaged during the summer months. We've deliberately avoided some crops such as cabbage and cauliflower which require a high degree of maintenance in the summer.
- Details on how to grow each of the veg including the correct spacing is on the Veg Directory on the GIY website: <https://giy.ie/get-growing/veg-directory/>
- The plan is based on a 4-bed system but could be modified for more or less beds. To ensure crop health, we group veg into different families and then move these families to another bed each year (e.g. potatoes are in bed 4 in year 1, and should not be back in that bed for at least 4 years). This is called crop rotation and is an essential part of organic growing.
- By sowing seeds direct in the soil as opposed to sowing in pots or trays for later transplanting, you minimise the workload and reduce the need for classroom space and weekend watering etc.

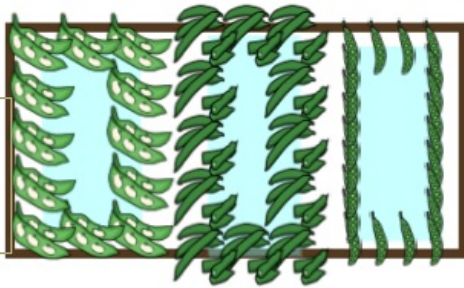
4 BED PLAN



BED 1

LEGUMES

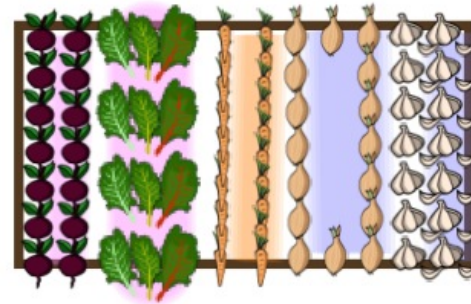
Broad Beans
Peas



BED 2

ALLIUMS/ROOTS

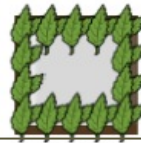
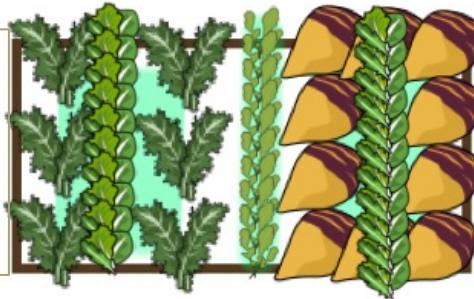
Beetroot or
Swiss Chard
Carrots
Onions
Garlic
Parsnips



BED 3

BRASSICA / LEAVES

Salad Leaves
Radish
Turnips

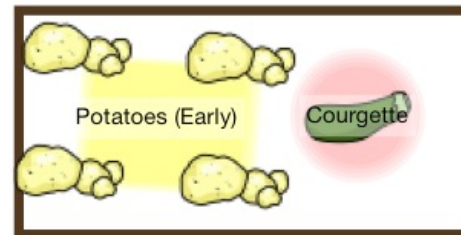


HERBS

BED 4

POTATOES/PUMPKIN

Early Potatoes
Pumpkins



MONTHLY TASK LIST



MARCH

Early March:

Sow 1 row of peas direct under fleece

Sow 1 row of broad beans under fleece

Mid March (St Patrick's Day traditionally!)

Sow early potatoes direct (ideally under fleece)

APRIL

Sow 1 row parsnips direct in soil outside

Sow 4 rows of salad leaves (Mizuna, Green Frills and Green Salad Bowl) and 1 row of radish (Cherry Belle) direct in soil

MAY

Sow 1 row carrots (Autumn King) direct for September harvest

Sow 1 row beetroot or swiss chard direct

Sow pumpkins in pots (1 seed per pot)

Harvest salad leaves and radish

JUNE

Sow 2 rows of swedes direct (after salad is taken out)

Harvest: early potatoes, peas, beans, salad leaves and radish

Transplant: pumpkins in to potato bed

JULY & AUGUST

Enjoy the holidays!

SEPTEMBER

Harvest: carrots, beetroot, chard

OCTOBER

Harvest pumpkins and swedes

NOVEMBER

Sow 2 rows garlic and 1 row over-wintering onion sets

Harvest parsnips

Be guided by soil temperatures. Must be a least 7oC for 3 consecutive days in spring before sowing most veg.

CROP MANAGEMENT & PROTECTION



- We are using a blight resistant variety of early potato called *Orla*
- Watering should only be necessary at transplanting stage (for first week or two) and then only if it doesn't rain.
- For early crops, horticultural fleece is helpful to warm up soil and protect crops from frost.
- If possible, protect carrots from carrot root fly using a bionet cover (fine insect netting)
- Do not use standard slug pellets as they are very toxic. Alternative slug protection:
 - Leave a plank of timber on soil – slugs gather underneath and can then be collected and removed daily
 - Organic slug pellets (Ferramol)
 - Dried Seaweed is a deterrent

GROWING CALENDAR



	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
LATE CARROTS					SOW				EAT			
EARLY POTATOES			SOW			EAT						
PEAS			SOW			EAT						
BROAD BEANS			SOW			EAT						
GARLIC						EAT (Y2)					SOW	
ONIONS						EAT (Y2)					SOW	
BETROOT					SOW				EAT			
CHARD					SOW				EAT			
PARSNIPS				SOW							EAT	
TURNIP (SWEDE)						SOW				EAT		
PUMPKIN					SOW					EAT		
SALAD LEAVES				SOW		EAT						
RADISH				SOW		EAT						