



Garden Tips & Techniques: Planting for the Fall

Did reality fall short of your vision for your garden this year? Do you have holes where plants died or sections that never got planted? Never fear, because planting the edible garden can be a continuous process throughout the growing season!

It's getting a little late to plant warm-season crops. By the time they mature, the balmy days and nights that they love will be long gone. But now is not too soon to consider crops that thrive in cooler weather. It may feel counterintuitive to plant cool-season crops in the middle of summer. But planting the seeds now gives the plants a chance to get established. When cool weather arrives they will flourish. Just be sure to keep your newly seeded beds well-watered, so the seedbed doesn't dry out while the seeds are germinating.

The folks at Johnny's Selected seeds have several helpful resources for choosing crops well-suited for the fall season. Here is a [list](#) of season-appropriate vegetables, herbs, and flowers. Many root crops and lots of greens make an appearance!

They also provide a [handy spreadsheet](#) for determining when to seed. Enter your expected first fall frost date (we generally use October 15), and the spreadsheet will automatically generate appropriate planting dates for each crop variety.

If your chosen crop is not listed (we noticed that the spreadsheet lacks herbs and flowers), simply check the "days to maturity" for the seeds. Estimate how many days are left before the first expected frost date, and make sure there is time for the plant to grow and produce before the frost arrives.

Also, keep in mind that garlic makes a great late-season crop. It can be seeded as late as November!



This home garden has a space in the middle where the garlic was harvested in early July. The rest of the crops are warm-season (cucumbers, beans, potatoes, peppers, and tomatoes) but there is room now for some fall greens or root vegetables!