

A Year-Round Planting Calendar

January

"Though I do not believe that a plant will spring up where no seed has been, I have great faith in a seed. Convince me that you have a seed, and I am prepared to expect wonders" Thoreau

Weather:

This is the coldest and usually the wettest (receiving about 20% of the average annual rainfall) month of the year. It is also the height of the dormant season. If a frost is expected, move tender plants inside or soak the ground the day before a frost is expected to provide maximum protection to citrus and other tender plants.

Planting guide:

Although the weather is cold and wet there are many vegetables and flowers that can be started in the classroom or greenhouse. This is the perfect time to plan the spring and summer garden.

Vegetative Propagation:

Winter is a perfect time to make cuttings of perennials and shrubs, which are now dormant.

- Buddleia
- Arctostaphylos
- Fremontia
- Eriophyllum
- Lavender

Garden Chores and Maintenance:

- Order seeds for the summer garden.
- Prune fruit trees
- Prune roses
- Prune deciduous trees, vines and shrubs
- Soak citrus thoroughly to leach out salt buildup
- Make cuttings of plants for spring plant sale
- Monitor cuttings - you may need to transplant them to larger containers
- Divide and pot spring-blooming perennials

Taking Root

January Monthly Planting Chart

Common Name	Botanical	Season	Annual/Perennial	Sow in Flat	Sow Direct	Heirloom	Butterfly	Beneficial Insect	Hummingbird	Dye	Colonial	Native
Baby blue Eyes	<i>Nemophila menziesii</i>	sp	a	x	x			x				x
Bread poppy	<i>Papaver somniferum</i>	sp	a	x	x	x	x	x				
Broccoli	<i>Brassicace spp</i>	w	a	x		x						
Cabbage	<i>Brassicace spp</i>	w	a	x		x						
Calendula	<i>Calendula officinalis</i>	w/sp	a	x	x	x		x			x	
California poppy	<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	w/sp	a		x			x				x
Cauliflower	<i>Brassicace spp</i>	w	a	x		x						
Clarkia	<i>Clarkia spp</i>	sp/su	a	x	x		x	x				x
Goldenrod	<i>Solidago californica</i>	su	p	x			x	x		x	x	x
Goldfields	<i>Lasthenia glabrata</i>	sp	a	x	x		x	x				x
Lettuce	<i>Lactuca sativa</i>	w/sp	a	x	x	x						
Linaria	<i>Linaria maroccana</i>	sp	a	x			x	x	x			
Monarda	<i>Monarda spp.</i>	su	p	x		x	x	x	x		x	x
Mustard	<i>Brassicace spp</i>	w/sp	a		x	x					x	
Oregano	<i>Oregano spp.</i>	su	p	x								
Parsley	<i>Petroselinum crispum</i>	sp/su	a	x	x	x						
Peas	<i>Pisum sativum</i>	w/sp	a		x	x					x	
Phacelia	<i>Phacelia tanacetifolia</i>	sp/su	a	x	x		x	x				x
Snapdragon	<i>Antirrhinum majus</i>	sp	a	x		x	x	x				
Statice	<i>Limonium sinuatum</i>	sp/su	a	x			x					
Stock	<i>Matthiola incana</i>	w/sp	a	x		x		x				
Thyme	<i>Thymus spp</i>	su	p	x								
Tidytips	<i>Layia platyglossa</i>	sp	a	x	x		x	x				x

February

"The garden is where you take the time in your life to tune in and listen." Gabriel Howearth

Weather:

By the beginning of February, Northern California has had about 60% of its annual rainfall, although February has been known to be the rainiest month. It is also possible to have periods of warmth. Because of this fluctuation of temperature fruit trees may not be as plentiful. A cold February is supposed to indicate a fruitful year. Many California native plants come into bloom during this time. Look for ceanothus, manzanita, fuchsia-flowered gooseberry, pink-flowering currant, willows, elderberries and many other deciduous plants begin to leaf out. The days grow longer and the birds begin to return. It's time to get that spring garden going.

Planting Guide:

This is the time to purchase any summer bulbs, although it is not time to plant them. These bulbs are usually not available after early March. Many cool-season vegetables can be started in flats in the classroom, in a cold frame or a greenhouse.

Vegetative Propagation:

- Rosemary
- Eriophyllum
- Lavender
- Sage

Garden Chores and Maintenance:

- Fertilize seedlings with manure tea or a water-soluble, organic fertilizer
- Fertilize citrus with fish emulsion or manure tea. Wait 6 weeks before feeding newly planted citrus
- Dig in any hot fertilizers such as chicken or rabbit manure or bloodmeal to allow them to break down before planting of warm-season crops
- Plant bare root asparagus and strawberries
- Transplant any seedlings started in January

Taking Root

February Monthly Planting Chart

Common Name	Botanical	Season	Annual/Perennial	Sow in Flat	Sow Direct	Heirloom	Butterfly	Beneficial Insect	Hummingbird	Dye	Colonial	Native
Alum root	<i>Heuchera pilosisma</i>	w/sp	a			x			x			x
Anise hyssop	<i>Agastache foeniculum</i>	sp/su	a	x		x		x				
Batchelor Button	<i>Centaurea spp.</i>	sp/su	a	x	x	x		x				
Blue-eyed Grass	<i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i>	sp/su	p	x				x				x
California Indian Pink	<i>Silene californica</i>	sp/su	p	x			x	x	x			x
Carrots	<i>Daucus carota</i>	sp/su	a		x	x					x	
Chinese cabbage	<i>Brassica rapa</i>	w/sp	a	x	x							
Chives	<i>Allium schoenoprasum</i>	sp/su	p	x	x			x			x	
Columbine	<i>Aquilegia formosa</i>	sp/su	p	x	x				x		x	x
Cutting greens		w/sp	a		x	x					x	
Dill	<i>Anethum graveolens</i>	su	a		x	x	x	x			x	
Echinacea	<i>Echinacea spp.</i>	su	p	x		x	x	x		x	x	x
Eggplant	<i>Solanum melongena</i>	su	a	x		x						
Foxgloves	<i>Digitalis spp.</i>	sp/su	a	x	x	x			x	x		
Hounds tongue	<i>Cynoglossum grande</i>	w/sp	a		x			x	x			x
Kale	<i>Brassica oleracea</i>	w/sp	a		x	x						
Larkspur	<i>Consolida spp</i>	sp/su	a	x		x	x		x			
Lavatera	<i>Lavatera trimestris</i>	sp/su	a/p	x		x	x		x		x	
Leeks	<i>Allium ampeloprasum</i>	w/sp	a	x	x	x					x	
Lemon Bergamot	<i>Monarda citrodora</i>	su	a	x		x		x				
Mint	<i>Mentha spp</i>	sp/su	a	x		x		x			x	
Oregano	<i>Oregano spp.</i>	su	p	x		x					x	
Pennyroyal	<i>Mentha pulegium</i>	sp/su	p	x				x			x	
Peppers	<i>Capsicum spp.</i>	su	a	x		x						
Phacelia	<i>Phacelia tanicifolia</i>	sp/su	a	x	x			x				x
Phlox	<i>Phlox drummondii</i>	sp/su	a	x				x	x			
Salvia columbariae	<i>Salvia columbariae</i>	su	a	x	x			x	x			x
Shooting stars	<i>Dodecatheon hendersonii</i>	sp/su	a	x								x
Sorrel	<i>Oxalis oregana</i>	sp/su	a	x	x	x					x	
Spinach	<i>Spinacea oleracea</i>	sp/su	a	x	x	x					x	
Swiss Chard	<i>Beta vulgaris</i>	sp/su	a	x	x	x					x	
Starflower	<i>Scabiosa stellata</i>	sp/su	a	x				x			x	
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	sp/su	p	x				x		x	x	x

March

"And then my heart with pleasure fills and dances with the daffodils." Wordsworth

Weather:

Ah! Spring is in the air. This is the lion's month and the Equinox. Plant growth is intensified as the days grow longer. The Bay Area winds change and bring more fog to the shoreline as the inland areas begin to warm. The hillsides are lush with green grass and dotted with the native annual flora such as golden poppies, lupines, western redbud, and Oregon grape. It is the time to explore the outside.

Planting Guide

Vegetative Propagation:

Continue dividing herbs such as mint, oregano, thyme, monarda.

Garden Chores and Maintenance:

- Continue transplanting seedlings into larger pots or directly into the garden
- Harvest winter crops
- WEED!
- Prune any old growth from frost tender perennials
- Compost any new materials from garden
- Deadhead annual flowers and bulbs
- Make arbors and trellises for summer vegetables such as beans, cucumbers, peas, gourds, watermelons
- Search for snails and slugs, it is mating season!

Taking Root

March Monthly Planting Chart

Common Name	Botanical	Season	Annual/Perennial	Sow in Flat	Sow Direct	Heirloom	Butterfly	Beneficial Insect	Hummingbird	Dye	Colonial	Native
Aster	<i>Aster chilense</i>	su	p	x		x	x	x				x
Basil	<i>Ocimum spp</i>	su	a	x	x	x						
Chamomile	<i>Anthemus nobilis</i>	su	a	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	
Chives	<i>Allium schoenoprasum</i>	sp	p	x			x	x				
Cosmos	<i>Cosmos spp</i>	su	a	x	x			x				
Dill	<i>Anethum graveolens</i>	su	a		x	x	x	x			x	
Eggplant	<i>Solanum spp.</i>	a	a	x		x						
Fennel	<i>Foeniculum vulgre</i>	sp/su	a	x		x	x	x			x	
Hollyhock	<i>Alcea rosea</i>	su	p	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	
Lettuce	<i>Lactuca sativa</i>	sp	a		x	x						
Milkweed	<i>Asclepias spp.</i>	su	p	x			x					x
Nicotiana	<i>Nicotiana</i>	sp	a	x		x			x			
Pac choi	<i>Brassica rupa</i>	sp	a		x							
Parsley	<i>Petroselinum crispum</i>	sp/su	a		x		x	x			x	
Peppers	<i>Capsicum annum</i>	su	a	x		x						
Pincushion	<i>Scabiosa atropurpurea</i>	sp/su	a	x	x	x	x	x				
Potato	<i>Solanum tuberosum</i>	sp/su	a		x	x						
Sunflower	<i>Helianthus spp.</i>	su	a	x	x	x		x		x		x
Sweet Pea	<i>Lathyrus odoratus</i>	sp	a		x	x			x		x	
Thyme	<i>Thymus spp.</i>	sp/su	p	x		x					x	
Tomatillos	<i>Physalis isocarpa</i>	su	a	x		x						

April

"And what is a weed? A plant whose virtues have not yet been discovered." Emerson

Weather:

Warmer weather is here, although it hasn't settled into a consistent spring pattern. Cold snaps and showers are still part of the forecast and the nighttime temperatures are still too cool for transplanting summer crops. Our native flora continues to awaken and more insects can be found buzzing about in the garden. Bush poppy, ceanothus, dogwood, flannel bush, lupine, manzanita, redbud, columbine, ninebark and mahonia bloom during this month. Annual wildflowers continue to unfold. Purple owl's clover, wallflowers, tidy-tips, milkmaids and phacelia add to the color palate of the meadows and grasslands.

Planting guide:

Many spring crops can be sowed directly into the garden this month. It is also a crucial month for starting warm season crops in flats or pots.

Vegetative Propagation:

It's a good time to take softwood cutting of trees and shrubs that have finished blooming.

Ceanothus	Diplacus	Erigeron glaucus
Erigonum	Philadelphus	Lupinus
Eriophyllum	Epilobium	Ribes speciosum
Rosemary		

Garden Chores and Maintenance:

- Look for ladybeetles and other beneficial insects on your flowers (especially those in the daisy or carrot family). Having these plants in the garden at this time of year will encourage many of the beneficial insects that need nectar and pollen. These insects will keep the exploding aphid population in check.
- Rain in this month can encourage many disease organisms to flourish later in the season. Brown rot in stone fruits, and peach leaf curl are a couple to watch for.
- Check for signs of fireblight in some plants in the rose family. Susceptible plants include apple, pear, loquat and photinia.
- Continue harvesting flowers and vegetables. This is a great time of year to sell flowers and vegetables to raise additional money for the garden project.
- Once the rain ends, begin watering the garden as needed. Especially those plants that are new. Most wildflowers will bloom longer with some additional water during the spring months.
- Begin hardening off any plants started indoors.

Taking Root

- Harvest and compost any cover crops planted this fall.
- Prepare beds for summer planting
- Compost and weed!
- Stop watering onions and garlic once they begin to flower. Bend the green tops down and wait until their bulbs fully form before harvesting.
- Mound more soil or straw around potatoes to produce more.
- Run water through and drip or mister systems to clean. Check for leaks and insects that might be nesting in the drip heads.

April Monthly Planting Chart

Common Name	Botanical	Season	Annual/Perennial	Sow in Flat	Sow Direct	Heirloom	Butterfly	Beneficial Insect	Hummingbird	Dye	Colonial	Native
Beans	<i>Phaseolus spp</i>	s	a		x	x						
Beets	<i>Beta vulgaris</i>	sp	a		x	x						
Calliopsis	<i>Coreopsis tinctoria</i>	su	a	x				x		x	x	
Carrots	<i>Daucus carota</i>	w/sp	a		x	x		x				
Catmint	<i>Nepeta x fassenii</i>	su	p	x			x	x				
Catnip	<i>Nepeta cataria</i>	su	p	x			x	x		x	x	
Gilantro	<i>Coriandrum sativum</i>	sp/su	a	x	x			x				
Corn	<i>Zea mays</i>	su	a	x	x	x						
Cosmos	<i>Cosmos spp</i>	su	a	x	x	x	x	x				
Cucumber	<i>Cucumis sativus</i>	su	a		x							
Cumin	<i>Coriandrum sativum</i>	sp/su	a	x	x		x	x				
Feverfew	<i>Tanacetum parthenium</i>	su	p	x		x		x			x	
Flax	<i>Linum spp.</i>	su	p	x		x					x	
Globe amaranth	<i>Gomphrena globosa</i>	su	a	x			x	x				
Lady's Bedstraw	<i>Galium verum</i>	su	p	x		x		x		x	x	x
Lantana	<i>lantana montevedensis</i>	su	p				x	x				
Lemongrass	<i>Cymbopogon flexuosus</i>	su	p	x								
Lettuce, leaf	<i>Letuca sativa</i>	w/sp	a	x	x	x						
Luffa	<i>Luffa aegyptiata</i>	su	a	x	x	x						

May

"One to rot, one to grow, one for pigeon and one for crow." Old English Planting Rhyme

Weather:

May is the official start of the dry season. With this season comes the added chore of watering the garden. This is the best time to begin thinking of a summer watering schedule. Nighttime and soil temperature begin to warm, which means it's time to plant the summer crop. Mock orange, buckeye, elderberry, penstemon, coral-bells and rhododendrons are all blooming.

Planting guide:

Direct seeding of heat-loving annuals begins this month. Harden off and transplant into the garden any plants that are large enough to be planted. Strawberry plants and other perennials can be purchased and planted.

Vegetative Propagation:

Flowering Currant	Diplacus	Epilobium
Gooseberries	Sages	Ribes speciosum
Penstemon		

Garden Chores and Maintenance

- Thin apples and pears
- Mulch pathways to keep weeds down during the summer months
- Transplant perennials and cuttings into pots for fall planting
- Weed while the ground is still moist
- Harvest and compost spring vegetables. Clean up beds and pathways
- Mulch everything before the warmer weather
- Fertilize with fish emulsion or compost tea
- Collect seeds from spring-blooming annuals - store for next fall
- Harvest potatoes as they begin flowering
- Begin setting up a watering schedule for the summer months
- Set up trellises for beans, squash, and cucumbers
- Have a plant sale
- Celebrate the garden on May day

May Monthly Planting Chart

Common Name	Botanical	Season	Annual/Perennial	Sow in Flat	Sow Direct	Heirloom	Butterfly	Beneficial Insect	Hummingbird	Dye	Colonial	Native
Beans	<i>Phaseolus spp.</i>	su	p		x	x					x	
Chamomile	<i>Anthemus nobilis</i>	su	a		x	x		x		x	x	
Cucumber	<i>Cucumis sativus</i>	su	a		x							
Dill	<i>Anethum graveolens</i>	su	a		x	x	x	x			x	
Eggplant	<i>Solanum spp</i>	su	a			x						
Goldenrod	<i>Solidago californica</i>	su	p	x		x	x	x		x	x	
Gourds	<i>Lagenaria siceraria</i>	su	a		x	x		x				
Helichrysum	<i>Helichrysum</i>	su	a		x	x		x				
Lettuce	<i>Letuca sativa</i>	su	a		x	x						
Marigold	<i>Tagetes spp.</i>	su	a		x			x		x		
Peppers	<i>Capiscum annum</i>	su	a			x						
Pumpkins	<i>Cucurbita spp</i>	su	a		x	x					x	
Squash, summer	<i>Cucurbita spp</i>	su	a		x	x						
Squash, winter	<i>Cucurbita spp</i>	su	a		x	x						
Swiss chard	<i>Beta vulgaris</i>	su	a		x	x						
Tomato	<i>Lycopersicum spp</i>	su	a		x	x						
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	su	p			x	x	x		x	x	x
Zinnias	<i>Zinnia spp.</i>	su	a		x	x	x	x		x		

June

"The earth laughs in flowers." Emerson

Weather:

In some areas, summer fog will reduce some of the watering needs, but a schedule should be in place while school is not in session. The daylight hours are longer as the summer solstice arrives, which provides the garden with optimal growing conditions. Because of the fog, plants can be more susceptible to disease. Watch for powdery mildew. Most natives are returning to their dormant stage, although the pink flowers of *Clarkia godietia*, or farewell-to-spring is just beginning to bloom on the hillsides. Monkey flower and sages are still in bloom.

Planting Guide:

Summer plants should be in place by the beginning of this month. Adequate water should be provided to newly planted crops until they are established. The seed listed below will do fine planted directly in the garden during this period as long as they do not dry out.

Vegetative Propagation:

Ceanothus	Lupine
Heuchera (divisions)	Vaccinium
Mahonia	Epilobium (Zauschneria)
Oxalis (divisions)	Salvia spp.

Garden Chores and Maintenance:

- Lightly prune and shape perennials
- Continue dead-heading annuals to encourage blooming
- Harvest perennial herbs before flowering. Dry in shaded area.
- Pinch buds on basil to avoid flowering. Harvest throughout the season.
- Finish mulching garden beds 2 to 4 inches with compost
- Continue thinning fruit
- Look over the garden year and make notes about changes for the fall
- Confirm watering times and schedules with volunteers
- Harvest onions and garlic. Dry thoroughly in a protected area

June Monthly Planting Chart

Common Name	Botanical	Season	Annual/Perennia	Sow in Flat	Sow Direct	Heirloom	Butterfly	Beneficial Insect	Hummingbird	Dye	Colonial	Native
Beans	<i>Phaseolus spp.</i>	su	a		x	x						
Corn	<i>Zea mays</i>	su	a	x	x	x						
Cosmos	<i>Cosmos spp.</i>	su	a	x	x		x	x		x		
Dill	<i>Anethum graveolens</i>	su	a		x	x	x	x				
Zinnias	<i>Zinna spp.</i>	su	a	x	x	x	x	x		x		

July - August

"He who plants a garden, plants happiness." Chinese proverb

Weather:

Summer fog will help keep the garden from drying out, but watch for drying soils since summer is the critical time for watering annuals. Established perennials, shrubs and trees need a minimal amount of deep watering.

Planting Guide:

The annual and perennial seeds listed during this period are for fall planting. These same plants can be started in September once the school year begins.

Vegetative propagation:

Ceanothus

Lupine

Ribes spp.

Salvia spp.

Garden Chores and Maintenance:

- Water and harvest
- Move up any transplants to larger pots
- Take rose cuttings
- Lightly prune and thin trees and shrubs as necessary. Do not prune spring-flowering shrubs or next year's bloom will be lost

Taking Root

July-August Monthly Planting Chart

Common Name	Botanical	Season	Annual/Perennial	Sow in Flat	Sow Direct	Heirloom	Butterfly	Beneficial Insect	Hummingbird	Dye	Colonial	Native
Blue-eyed grass	<i>isyrinchium bellum</i>	su	p	x								x
Broccoli	<i>Brassicace spp</i>	w	a	x		x						
Brussel sprouts	<i>Brassicace spp</i>	w	a	x		x						
Cabbage	<i>Brassicace spp</i>	w	a	x		x						
Calendula	<i>Calendula officinalis</i>	f/w	a	x	x	x		x		x	x	
Carnation	<i>Dianthus caryophyllus</i>	w	p	x		x					x	
Cauliflower	<i>Brassicace spp</i>	w	a	x		x						
Chinese cabbage	<i>Brassicace spp</i>	w	a	x								
Columbine	<i>Aquilegia formosa</i>	sp	p	x		x			x			x
Coral bells	<i>Heuchera pilosissima</i>	sp	p	x		x		x				x
Delphinium	<i>Delphinium spp.</i>	sp	p	x		x			x			x
Echinops	<i>Echinops ritro</i>	sp	p	x		x						
Foxglove	<i>Digitalis spp.</i>	w/sp	p	x		x					x	
Florence fennel	<i>Foeniculum vulgre</i>	sp	a	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	
Gypsophila	<i>Gypsophila</i>	sp	a	x		x		x				
Hollyhock	<i>Alcea rosea</i>	sp/su	p	x		x	x	x		x	x	
Kale	<i>Brassicace spp</i>	w/sp	a		x	x						
Larkspur	<i>Consolida spp</i>	sp	a	x		x					x	
Leeks	<i>Allium ampeloprasum</i>	w/sp	a	x	x	x						
Lettuce	<i>Letuca sativa</i>	w/sp	a	x	x	x						
Onions	<i>All ium spp.</i>	w/sp	a	x	x	x					x	
Pac choi	<i>Bbrassica rupa</i>	w/sp	a	x								
Peas (fall crop)	<i>Pisum sativum</i>	f	a		x	x					x	
Snapdragon	<i>Antirrhinum majus</i>	w/sp	a	x		x	x	x				
Stock	<i>Matthiola incana</i>	w/sp	a	x		x	x	x				
Swiss chard	<i>Beta vulgaris</i>	w/sp	a	a		x						

September

"Each flower is a soul opening up nature" Corita

Weather:

The equinox arrives this month, and yet the weather feels more like summer. The fogs subside, and some of the warmest weather occurs. While most of the native flora has gone, California fuchsia is in bloom with its brilliant red flowers.

Planting Guide:

September is a prime planting month. All landscape plants can be put in during the autumn months. The soil is still warm from summer, encouraging strong root growth, but leaf and top growth slows with the lowering temperatures, reducing water loss to the plant.

Vegetative Propagation:

Lavender	Arctostaphylos
Mints	Garrya elliptica
Oregano	Penstemon
Ceanothus	
Flannelbush	
Ribes spp.	

Garden Chores and Maintenance:

- Harvest and clean out garden beds
- Apply manure tea to full season crops
- Collect seed
- Continue planting and transplanting cool season vegetables and flowers
- Cut everlasting flowers and hang to dry

Taking Root

September Monthly Planting Chart

Common Name	Botanical	Season	Annual/Perennial	Sow in Flat	Sow Direct	Heirloom	Butterfly	Beneficial Insect	Hummingbird	Dye	Colonial	Native
Baby-Blue-Eyes	<i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i>	sp	p	x				x				x
Bachelor Button	<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	sp	a	x	x	x		x				
Broccoli	<i>Brassicaceae spp</i>	sw/sp	a	x		x						
Calendula	<i>Calendula officinalis</i>	w/sp	a	x	x	x	x	x		x		
California Poppy	<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	w/sp	a	x	x			x				x
Carnation	<i>Dianthus caryophyllus</i>	sp	p	x		x						
Cauliflower	<i>Brassicaceae spp</i>	w/wp	a	x		x						
Chia	<i>Salvia columbariae</i>	sp	a	x			x	x				x
Chinese Houses	<i>Collinsia heterophylla</i>	sp	a	x	x		x	x				x
Cilantro	<i>Coriandrum sativum</i>	sp	a	x	x			x				
Columbine	<i>Aquilegia formosa</i>	sp	p	x	x			x				x
Coneflower	<i>Echinacea spp.</i>	su	p	x		x	x	x				x
Coral bells	<i>Heuchera</i>	sp	p	x	x	x						x
Delphinium	<i>Delphinium spp.</i>	sp	p	x		x						
Echinops	<i>Echinops ritro</i>	su	p	x		x						
Gypsophila	<i>Paniculata</i>	su	a	x								
Goldfields	<i>Lasthenia glabrata</i>	su	a	x	x		x	x				x
Hollyhock	<i>Alcea rosea</i>	sp	p	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	
Kale	<i>Brassica oleracea</i>	sp	a		x	x						
Larkspur	<i>Delphinium spp.</i>	sp	a	x		x						
Leeks	<i>Allium</i>	sp	a	x	x	x						
Lettuce	<i>Lactuca sativa</i>	w/sp	a	x	x	x						
Onions	<i>Allium spp.</i>	sp	a	x	x	x					x	
Owl's Clover	<i>Castilleja exserta</i>	sp	a	x	x		x	x				x
Parsley	<i>Petroselinum crispum</i>	sp	a	x	x	x						
Pepperbox Poppy	<i>Papaver somniferum</i>	sp	a	x	x	x	x	x				
Phacelia	<i>Phacelia tanacetifolia</i>	sp	a	x	x			x				x
Snapdragon	<i>Antirrhinum majus</i>	sp	a	x		x		x				
Spinach	<i>Spinach oleracea</i>	sp	a	x	x	x						
Stock	<i>Matthiola incan</i>	sp	a	x		x		x			x	
Swiss Chard	<i>Beta vulgaris</i>	sp	a	x	x	x						
Tatsoi	<i>Brassica rapa</i>	sp	a		x							
Tidy-Tips	<i>Layia platyglossa</i>	sp	a	x	x			x				x

October

"Nature like an enthusiastic gardener could not resist the temptation to plant flowers everywhere."

John Muir

Weather:

October can be the start of the rainy season. The wind direction changes and combined with low clouds storms can form. The weather is still warm, but the nighttime and morning temperatures remind us that autumn is here. Birds begin their trip south. Monarch butterflies begin migrating and can be found over-wintering in Santa Cruz, Pacific Grove and Big Sur. Ladybeetles are found hibernating in Oak woodlands.

Planting Guide:

Warm days and cool nights still make this an ideal planting time in Northern California. Native plant sales during this month make it an excellent time to purchase and plant just before the winter rain. Annual wildflowers for winter, and spring should be sown directly in the garden after the first true rains, and seedlings should be ready to plant out.

Vegetative Propagation:

Evergreen Huckleberry	Sticky Monkeyflower
Flannel Bush	Pink-flowering Currant
Mugwort	Buckwheat
Salvia	

Garden Chores and Maintenance:

- Set out rain gauge
- Update garden records, noting successes and failures, gaps in planting, favorite varieties, planting and landscaping changes to be
- Begin planting bulbs inside for holiday gifts
- Manure soil in beds not being used for winter
- Plant green manure crops
- Finish harvest summer crops
- Build and start a worm composting bin
- Test soil before planting your winter garden
- Plant bulbs for spring bloom

October Monthly Planting Chart

Common Name	Botanical	Season	Annual/Perennial	Sow in Flat	Sow Direct	Heirloom	Butterfly	Beneficial Insect	Hummingbird	Dye	Colonial	Native
Baby Blue Eyes	<i>Nemophila menziesii</i>		a	x	x			x				x
Baby Snapdragon	<i>Linaria maroccana</i>		a	x	x		x	x				
Chinese Houses	<i>Collinsia heterophylla</i>		a	x	x		x	x				x
Cover crops			a		x			x			x	
Fava beans			a		x			x				
Five Spot	<i>Nemophila maculata</i>		a	x	x							x
Garlic	<i>Allium sativum</i>		a		x							
Goldfields	<i>Lasthenia glabrata</i>		a	x	x		x	x				x
Horehound	<i>Marrubium cylleneum</i>		p	x		x		x			x	
Lettuce	<i>Lactuca sativa</i>		a		x	x					x	
Meadowfoam	<i>Limnanthes douglasii</i>		a	x	x							x
Onions	<i>Allium sativum</i>		a	x	x	x					x	
Poppy	<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>		a	x	x	x		x			x	x
Purple Owl's Cover	<i>Castilleja exserta</i>		a	x	x		x	x				x
Shallot	<i>Allium sativum</i>		a		x							

November-December

"To create a flower is the labour of ages." William Blake

Weather:

November is the official rainy season. The days are shorter and the leaves are beginning to show their brilliant colors. Zinnia colors intensify with the cooler weather and will usually bloom throughout the month. December brings the possibility of frost. This is the dormant season, but there is still a lot to do in California gardens.

Planting Guide:

During stretches of drier weather during November cool-season vegetables, trees, perennials, and annual wildflowers can be planted. Bare-root asparagus, trees and shrubs are best planted during the winter months. Spring-blooming bulbs can be put in before December.

Vegetative Propagation

Flannelbush

Manzanita

Garden Chores and Maintenance:

- Broadcast annual wildflower seed
- Divide herbs and perennials
- Mulch bare soil
- Cover compost to avoid leaching
- Sharpen tools
- Mulch and feed fruit trees
- Prune fruit trees
- Prune roses
- Celebrate the holidays!
- Look over seed catalogs for spring