

## Renfrow Hardware

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# Poor Renfrow's Almanac

*"Remember, there's a smart, redneck way to fix anything!"*

## Holiday Calendar for your Garden of Eatin': School Gardens Edition

There is *something to plant* and *something to eat* in your Garden of Eatin' 365 days of the year.

### **First Day of School**

For those who grew a summer garden - Vegetarian Month: Who wants meat when there are beans, okra, corn, eggplant, maters, peas, squash, corn, more maters...well, you get it. Plant kale, broccoli, collards, carrots, beets, radishes. \*Plant fall turnips, beets, & carrots before Labor Day as they need plenty of growing time. If you want to grow cauliflower or Brussels sprouts for your class, try to plant during your first teacher workdays or they may not have enough time to mature before the days get too short.

### **Labor Day through Halloween**

Plant lettuce, mixed greens, beets, sugar peas, collards, broccoli, spinach, swiss chard, garlic, onions. Plant cover crops in any beds that need a rest for the winter. Dig sweet potatoes and harvest pumpkins and remaining green tomatoes before frost.

### **Thanksgiving**

Your greens have had a few good frosts on them. Now it's time to put some of them in the freezer. Give thanks and gorge yourself on your sweet potatoes, collards, turnips. Start planting fruit trees, blueberries, blackberries, and raspberries. New packaged seeds will start arriving for Santa to pick up for stocking stuffers.

### **Winter Break**

Slice up a few cherished red tomatoes from the dozen or so on your classroom windowsill to enjoy with the cabbage, broccoli, and Brussels sprouts the students just harvested from the garden.

### **End of First Semester / New Year's Day**

Cook collards. Plant green onions. Plant blueberries, raspberries, blackberries, fruit trees, scuppernongs, etc. Prune fruit trees and grape vines. Eat your last ripe tomato from fall (ask us how!) Eat more Brussels sprouts and collards that you planted in the fall.

### **Super Bowl Weekend**

Earliest starting of indoor summer seeds: tomatoes, peppers, eggplant. Cook up a pot of greens and make a spinach salad to go with your chips and dip!

### **Valentine's Day**

Plant sugar peas, onions, fruits and berries, Irish potatoes, and asparagus. Direct seed root crops, lettuce, kale, and spinach into garden, and set out broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, and collard transplants.

### **ACC Tournament**

Start tomato, pepper, and eggplant seeds inside. Cut down cover crops so soil can begin to dry out. You should still be enjoying some collards, Brussels sprouts, lettuce and spinach from your fall planting. Put up your walls of water for your tomatoes that you started indoors during Super Bowl weekend. Plant lettuce and spinach for a short harvest season before spring planting hits, and kale and Swiss chard for greens through midsummer.

### **Good Friday**

Traditional planting day in the south. Good zodiac signs. However, often too cool when Easter falls early (late March-early April). Arrival of baby chicks at Renfrow's - will receive chick deliveries every week in April and May. First planting of sweet corn.

### **Tax Day**

Most summer crops can be planted by seeds or plants, though it may be a little cool at night for cukes, eggplant, and okra seed.

### **May Day**

Replant after your "frost god" sacrifices (those tomato and pepper plants that weren't protected when the late frost came around). Plant sweet potato plants. Second planting of tomatoes. Best to wait to plant pepper plants now. Harvest large sweet onions. Early garlic harvest. Early May is a great time to incubate eggs in the classroom - it takes ~21 days, so plan on chicks hatching mid-week, after EOGs and EOCs.

### **Memorial Day**

Traditional planting day for our transplanted Yankee customers. Planting and weeding is in full swing. Really good gardeners have picked their first ripe tomato. Squash should be coming in nicely.

### **Last Day of School**

Third planting of tomatoes if the garden is being tended over the summer. Roast zucchini to have as a special topping for end-of-year pizza parties. Begin harvesting and drying herbs, before they begin blooming, to use in recipes in the fall. You can be eating your first picking of green beans. Time to plant a warm-season cover crop like buckwheat or cowpeas if no one is tending the garden during the summer.

### **Fourth of July**

Most folks should be eating maters by now and some sweet corn if you are good! Last planting of squash and zucchini. Any later and the worms get into the fruit - waste of time and space. Great time to plant Crowder peas, a true southern staple. They will harvest in August and September when the students are back. Start leek, onion, and broccoli seeds in cups. Last chance for planting tomatoes that will ripen in September & October. Lima beans and butter peas are in full swing.