

# Vegetable Gardening Monthly Checklist

## January

- **Plan your garden:** Choose the varieties of vegetables you'd like to grow. Order seeds early to ensure availability.
- **Maintain tools:** Inspect and repair garden tools and equipment during the off-season.

## February

- **Start seeds indoors:** Begin starting seeds for onions, leeks, and any perennial herbs.
- **Plan soil amendments:** Order compost or manure to enrich the soil before spring planting.

## March

- **Start seeds indoors:**
- **Early March:** Start seeds of tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants indoors as these require a longer growing season.
- **Mid to late March:** Begin sowing seeds of broccoli, cabbage, and kale indoors; they tolerate cooler conditions once moved outdoors.
- **Prepare garden beds:**
- As the soil becomes workable, clear out any debris, add compost, and prepare plots for early planting.

## April

- **Transplant seedlings:**
- **Early April:** Transplant hardy seedlings like broccoli, cabbage, and kale into the garden if weather permits.
- **Mid-April:** Direct sow peas, spinach, and lettuce, chard, radishes and carrots as soon as the soil is workable and not too wet.
- **Continue starting seeds indoors:**
- Start seeds for squash, cucumbers, and melons towards the end of April, as they need less time indoors.

## May

- **Harden off indoor starts:**
- Gradually acclimatize tomato, pepper, and eggplant seedlings by placing them outside in a sheltered area during the day to prepare for transplanting.
- **Plant warm-season crops:**
- **Mid to late May:** After the risk of frost has passed, transplant tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, and eggplants outside.
- **Direct sow:** Plant beans, corn, and additional rounds of carrots and radishes directly into the garden.

- **Mulching and maintenance:**
- Apply mulch to retain moisture, regulate soil temperature, and suppress weeds.

## June

- **Regular maintenance:** Watering, weeding, and thinning out seedlings as needed.
- **Succession planting:** Sow additional seeds of quick-growing crops like radishes and lettuce for a continuous harvest.

## July

- **Harvest early crops:** Begin harvesting early vegetables like lettuce, radishes, and peas.
- **Start fall crops indoors:** Begin starting broccoli, cauliflower, and kale indoors for fall transplanting.

## August

- **Continue maintenance:** Keep up with weeding, watering, and monitoring for pests and diseases.
- **Plant fall crops:** Start seeds for fall crops such as turnips, carrots, radishes, lettuce, and spinach.

## September

- **Transplant fall crops:** Beginning of September move broccoli, cauliflower, and kale seedlings outdoors.
- **Prepare for fall:** Continue harvesting and begin cleaning up spent plants.

## October

- **Plant garlic:** Plant garlic cloves for harvesting next summer.
- **Winter preparation:** Remove all plant debris and till the garden if needed to prepare for winter.

## November

- **Mulch:** Apply a layer of mulch to protect perennials and overwintering crops like garlic.
- **Cleanup:** Ensure all tools are cleaned and stored properly for the winter.

## December

- **Planning:** Reflect on the past growing season and plan for the next year.
- **Rest:** Take a break and gather new ideas and techniques for improving next season's garden.