



HIGH ELEVATION GARDEN TIMELINE

FEBRUARY-MARCH

- Choose your location & garden size
 - Make it expandable for future needs
- Plan what to grow
 - Order seeds
 - Create a calendar of starting dates
- Get supplies you'll need
 - seedling supplies, soil block makers
 - fertilizers, amendments
 - fencing supplies (check thrift stores)
 - raised bed supplies (check thrift stores)
- Map out your garden
 - Optional: growveg.com
- Start making compost & vermicompost
- Start seedlings as needed
 - onions, leeks, shallots

APRIL

- Prepare your garden site as weather permits
 - Terracing if needed
 - Build raised beds or create in-ground rows
 - Build a fence
 - Prepare soil in raised beds (or on top of ground for in-ground rows)
 - layers of rock-free soil, compost, horse/cow manure (aged 2-3 months), poultry shavings & manure, leaves, kitchen scraps, old hay/straw, coffee grounds (ask your local coffee shops for these)
 - Water well between layers
 - Cover with black plastic, secure from wind
- Start seedlings indoors as needed
- Order or buy supplies:
 - shade cloth, plastic, EMT, pvc for clips
 - other supplies

MAY

- Watch your weather forecast.
 - Throughout the month, keep planning out your next week or two.
- Prepare your beds with fertilizers & amendments prior to planting:
 - Espoma Bio-Tone or Down-To-Earth Bio-Live (these include mycorrhizae)
 - Eggshells, gypsum (provide calcium)
 - Epsom Salt (provides magnesium)
 - Molasses (horticultural molasses at garden centers is cheaper; dry or liquid)
 - Wood Ash (especially good for root vegetables such as carrots or beets & legumes)
 - Finished compost (if you haven't already done so)
- Keep your soil watered, even before planting (if no snow)
- Transplant cold-tolerant seedlings
 - brassicas, lettuce, spinach, chard, misc greens
 - onions, leeks, shallots
- Direct-seed cold-tolerant things:
 - parsnips, beets
 - Potatoes may be planted end of May, but watch the weather. Young potato plants cannot handle frost after they've sprouted. They should sprout in 2-3 weeks.
- Keep things watered & covered as needed.

JUNE

- Start seedlings as needed
 - beans (6 days before expected last frost)
 - brassicas, lettuce for succession plantings
- Direct seed as needed, based on weather forecast.
 - Carrots, beet, rutabaga, misc brassica seeds
- Transplant seedlings after expected last frost (be ready to cover if needed):
 - squash, pumpkins, zucchini
 - beans
 - succession plants like brassicas, lettuce, spinach no later than June 30
- Water as needed
- Cover as needed
- Harvest:
 - asparagus, rhubarb, spinach, lettuce, other greens

JULY

- Water as needed
- Fertilize as directed per product recommendations (about once a month)
- Watch for insects; control as needed.
- Hand-pollinate squashes. Check daily.
- Prune plants, removing dead portions as needed.
- Make compost as materials become available
- July: If you want to plan a vacation, July is the best time to do it. Things are generally growing well and don't need anything but water. In July, the rain should provide enough of that in Colorado.
- Harvest
 - Lettuce, spinach, other greens, rhubarb, some brassicas

AUGUST

- See July, do the same
- Don't plan much time off
- Keep making compost
- Harvest, eat & preserve your veggies
- Harvest:
 - zucchini, peas, beans, brassicas, lettuces, spinach, other greens, garlic, rhubarb
- Remove spent plants, add compost and/or manure to empty beds

SEPTEMBER

- Water as needed
- Limit watering onions & potatoes; stop near the end of the month
- Remove spent plants, add compost and/or manure to empty beds
- Keep making compost
- Harvest, eat & preserve
- Harvest before first frost:
 - beans, zucchini, winter squash, pumpkins, tender herbs (basil), celery
- Can remain in ground after frost:
 - lettuce, spinach
 - brassicas (keep covered)
 - carrots, parsnips, beets, other root vegetables (cut off plants above the root & mulch well)

- onions, leeks (mulch well)
- Prepare bed(s) for next year's garlic. Plant garlic mid-to-late September. Mulch well.

OCTOBER

- Water as needed
- Do not water remaining onions or potatoes
- Harvest prior to ground freezing:
 - potatoes, onions, beets, carrots, parsnips, other root vegetables
- Remove any remaining plants, add compost and/or manure to empty beds
- Keep making compost
- Remove garden supplies such as plastic, shade cloth

NOVEMBER

- Whew! Look at what you did and be satisfied with your good work.
- Enjoy all your garden produce. (Make a fresh pumpkin pie!)
- Evaluate the season & make notes for next year's garden:
 - What went well?
 - What needs to improve?
 - Other vegetables you'd like to try