# WWF'S SCHOOL GARDEN CALENDAR

| | Activity | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | April | May | Jun | July | Aug |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **LETTUCE & ROCKET**<br>Salad leaves and rocket are – great for kids, as you can pick leaves as they grow. Sow salad outdoors in moist soil and thin to 10 cm apart, rocket 45 cm apart. Keep well watered. Can be grown in pots off the ground to avoid slugs. Get them in early and sow in weekly batches to avoid gluts. | Sow | ☀ | ☀ | | | | ▼ | ☀ | ☀ | ☀ | ☀ | ☀ | |
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| **CARROTS**<br>Popular with kids, sow in early spring under a cover, leave 30 cms between rows, thin to 2 cms apart. You can cover to deter pests. Don't forget you can eat the bushy green tops. There are lots of interesting varieties – you can get rainbow carrots in lots of different colours! To store longer, cut off the green tops (and eat) once they are harvested. | Sow | | | | | | | ☀ | ☀ | ☀ | ☀ | ☀ | |
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| **COURGETTES**<br>Another easy and prolific crop; it's satisfying to see these shapely veg develop and fun to harvest for young people. Sow seeds indoors after the last frost, space plants about 90 cms apart. Be aware they need a lot of space. Keep them well watered. | Sow | | | | | | | ☀ | ▼ | ▼ | | | |
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| **POTATOES**<br>Choose the type of potato carefully to ensure harvesting before the summer holidays. Go for 'first earlies' or salad potatoes and you can be eating them by May. Find blight resistant varieties. Before planting chit the potatoes (stand with eyes upright and wait for strong green shoots to appear) in egg boxes in the classroom on a window sill. Then plant them 12 cms deep and 40 cms apart. Water well and cover stems with soil as they grow. | Sow | | | | | | | ☀ | ☀ | ☀ | | | |
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| **BEANS**<br>We like all kinds of beans – French beans, runner beans and broad beans – and they are great because they fertilise the soil as they grow. Kids like them and you can eat runner beans raw. Sow indoors and plant out after last frost. You need to create a structure for them to grow up around, like a wigwam made of bamboo poles. Keep well watered. | Sow | | | | | | | | ☀ | ▼ | ▼ | | |
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| **BEETROOT**<br>Another prolific and low maintenance crop. Sow outdoors and thin to 10 cms apart. Pick them when they are small, otherwise they can get tough. Don't forget you can eat the young leaves in salads. Beetroot chocolate cake is a favourite in WWF headquarters! You can get rainbow beetroot that comes in many colours. | Sow | | | | | | | ☀ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ |
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| **SPINACH & CHARD**<br>Like salad leaves, spinach is another great crop for harvesting as you go. Sow outdoors after the last frost, thinning to 15 cms apart. Sow every three weeks for continuous supply. You may need to cover spinach in cold weather. Chard comes in rainbow colours, the young leaves are great in a salad the older ones with a roast. | Sow | | | | | | | ☀ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | |
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| **TOMATOES**<br>Tomatoes are popular with kids and easy to grow. There are lots of interesting varieties, different sizes and colours – from red to yellow and even 'chocolate' kinds. Some varieties are perfect for growing in baskets indoors. For outdoor growing, sprout indoors then plant out at 45 cm intervals. You will need canes to support some single stemmed varieties. | Sow | | | | | | | | ▼ | | | | |
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| **PEAS & MANGETOUT**<br>Another crop where you can eat the shoots as they come up. Sow these early indoors to get ahead. Plant out 5 cms apart with plenty of space between rows, support plants with sticks. | Sow | | | | | | ☀ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | ▼ | |
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| **HERBS YOU CAN EAT**<br>Herbs like rosemary, thyme, sage, oregano, and chives are simple to grow, and are a great companion to all the vegetables in this chart. These can all be planted at the same time in February inside and plant them out when the weather becomes warmer. | Sow | ☀ | ☀ | ☀ | ☀ | ☀ | ☀ | ☀ | ☀ | ☀ | ☀ | ☀ | ☀ |
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| **STRAWBERRIES**<br>These can be planted at any time of the year. Make sure you ask around, as many local gardeners will have 'runners' they can give you. Strawberries can be planted in pots and grown indoors or outdoors. There are lots of varieties – you can get big and small ones, red and white ones too. | Sow | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| **FOR THE BEES**<br>Plants like lavender, which you can't eat, are very popular with bees. Take cuttings to start your own lavender bush in a pot – it smells wonderful and can be used to make home-made gifts. Sweet peas flower over an extended period and are another favourite with bees – and the kids can take posies of flowers home with them. Leave the flowers to die on the plants and they grow a pod which you can plant in spring / autumn. | Sow | ☀ | ☀ | | | | | ☀ | ☀ | | | | |
| | Plant | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Harvest | | | | | | | | | | | | |

## A FEW KEY TIPS

- **Watering regularly** is the key to successful growing. (But some plants don't like too much – read the instructions). If you are growing things in pots, like lettuce, remember pots will dry out quicker.
- **Don't let your plants go to seed** if you want to keep harvesting them – make sure you nip off the buds and newly formed flowering parts.
- **Sow in small batches every week** to ensure a continuous supply and to avoid gluts.
- **Started late?** In a hurry to get going? Buy young plants rather than starting with seeds.

## THINK TWICE BEFORE GROWING...

**Raspberries**
Beware, they can spread easily and take over your garden.

**Mint**
Fresh mint is lovely to have, but it is prone to take over, consider growing it in a pot.

**Sweetcorn**
Hard to get them to be ready to harvest before summer holidays.

KEY
- Harvest
- Sow indoors
- Sow outdoors
- Plant