

School Garden Tips: August!



THREE SISTERS: CORN, BEANS AND SQUASH

WELCOME BACK!

- **Garden Maintenance:**

Depending on whether your garden was being watered over the summer, or not, you either have a garden full of summer veggies or a lot of bare soil. So, it's time to schedule your initial garden assessment with your Master Gardener mentor. In the meantime, you can begin the clean-up process-- pick up any trash, dead plants, and dropped fruit and leaves. Assess the soil levels in raised beds. Begin to water the soil, even before you add plants. Water daily if soil appears to be dry and hydrophobic. Adjust watering schedules for heat and soil retention. If your school has a compost bin, be sure to stir and wet down the bin.

- **Planting Guide**

Seeds: Arugula, Bok Choy, Broccoli, Cauliflower, Cabbage, Peas, Carrots, Radish, Kale, Collards, Leeks, Lettuce, Spinach, Chard

- **Pest & Disease Alert:**

Pay attention to any [wasps](#) who might have set up a nest in the garden over the summer and contact school maintenance department for abatement. It's always good to do a daily check before bringing students into the garden. If you have summer veggies, be on the lookout for [late blight](#) on tomatoes--remove any infected plant parts to the city green bin and clean your tools after cutting infected plants; and [powdery mildew](#) on squash and cucumbers--remove infected leaves, or entire plants if they are at the end of fruit production, to the city green bin.

- **Activity:**

Now is a great time to talk about garden safety and rules of the garden.

Here are some points to share with students:

- Proper tool use and ways to avoid danger with tools.
- Running in the garden.
- The difference between “people places” and “plant places.”
- Keeping voices at a reasonable level.
- Picking and eating only with clear permission from an adult.
- Be kind to each other.

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UC Master Gardener Program of Alameda County
School Garden Team