

# School Garden Tips: March



- **Garden Maintenance:** Dig in any cover crops before they go to seed (flower). Any seeds you and your students have already planted, should be starting to sprout by now- don't forget to thin them out to improve nutrient density and air circulation. Spring and early summer fruiting trees may be in bloom. March thru October, fruit trees need to be watered to produce fruit.
- **Planting Guide:** March is a transitional planting season in Oakland--we can still transplant cool season crops, and also begin transplanting warm season vegetables toward the end of the month. Something to keep in mind for indoor seeding- if seedlings appear elongated (spindly), they are not getting enough light.
  - **Seeds:** Direct sow: carrots, radishes, beets, parsnips, turnips, potatoes, cilantro  
Indoors (if available): squash, cucumber, peppers, eggplant
  - **Plants:** Set out starts of broccoli, greens, peas, herbs

- **Pest & Disease Alert:** Check for [aphids](#) and wipe off, or spray with a hose, as you find them. Aphids are easier to control earlier in the season when infestations are small. Remove any heavily infested plant parts, or the entire plant if necessary, to keep the population small. Continue to check for [snails and slugs](#), especially after rain. If you see signs of their damage--irregular holes with smooth edges and silvery mucous trails-- try one of the methods listed [here](#).

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