
School Garden Tips: April



- **Garden Maintenance:** It is a good time to do a soil investigation- look at texture, hardness, ability to clump, color, and odor. Amend with compost or fertilizer prior to planting warm-season starts. [Get to Know Your Soil](#) is a good educational resource from the UC Master Gardeners. Try to control weeds when they are small and before they flower. Continue to mulch around perennials and water as needed to supplement irrigation and rain. Check the compost pile to make sure it's not too wet from recent rains- it should be moist, but not soaking. Alternate 6 inch layers of both brown and green materials to achieve a balance.
- **Planting Guide** If you have a summer program at your school--or someone who can water and take care of the garden until August--plant warm season crops mid-month when the soil temperature should be above 45-50 degrees. Seeds that have been direct-sown into the garden last month can be thinned once they have formed two or more true leaves.
 - **Seeds:** Beans, corn, cucumber, melon, and squash, can be direct-seeded in the

garden late this month.

- **Plants:** Set out tomato, pepper, and eggplant starts in mid-April.
- **Pest & Disease Alert:** Continue to be vigilant for eggs, insects, and damage, especially on tender young plants. The earlier you can detect and manage, the better chances for plant survival. Eliminate mosquito breeding sites by draining any standing water in buckets, planters, pipes, or gutters that might have collected water from the rain.

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UC Master Gardener Program of Alameda County
School Garden Team