

Forcing Bulbs to Bloom in Winter

A wonderful way to bring a bit of spring into your home

In the dead of winter, spring blooming bulbs are especially welcome in the house. They fill any room with lively color (and maybe scent) and remind us that spring is just around the corner.

Narcissus

Forcing Narcissus in Water:

- Place bulbs in a shallow bowl filled with gravel; mound gravel around sides of bulbs.
- Add water so it barely touches bulbs.
- Place bowl in a cool, dark location.
- When roots start to grow, keep water below bulbs.
- When top growth grows, move bowl to bright light but out of direct sunlight.
- Bulbs bloom in about 6 weeks.

Narcissus also grow well in vases with just water.

Bulbs should be firm, without soft spots or scars. Bulbs with two "noses", or tips, will produce two stems.



Forcing Narcissus in Soil:

- Choose a wide pot about 6" deep with drainage holes in the bottom. Fill the pot loosely with potting mix. Set bulbs side by side, close but not touching, pointed end up, so that the tips are even with the pot rim. Do not press the bulbs into the mix. It should be loose to allow the roots to grow through it easily. Cover with additional potting mix, so the noses are barely covered.
- Water thoroughly and empty drainage tray.
- ***Daffodils need a cold treatment for 8-10 weeks. If you pre-chilled bulbs, you can skip this step.*** Move pot to a dark, cool (40-45°F) location such as a basement, unheated garage or refrigerator. Avoid storing bulbs near ripening fruit or vegetables because they give off ethylene gas which can damage the bulbs. Keep them in cold storage for about 8-10 weeks. Keep the medium barely moist.
- When shoots reach about 2" tall, bring the pot out of cold storage and place the growing daffodils in a slightly warmer (50°F) location with low light.
- Over the next few days, gradually move the pot toward a sunny window. By moving it in small steps while growing, the daffodils will last longer. Rotate the pot every day for even growth.
- When in full bloom keep potted daffodils in a bright location out of direct sun. Blossoms will last about a month by keeping the pot in a cool room (about 60°F).

Narcissus Cultivars Dependable for Forcing:

Daffodils with bright yellow blooms include 'Dutch Master', 'Soleil d'Or', and 'Unsurpassable'.

- Bi-color daffodils include 'Barrett Browning', a long-time favorite with snowy white petals and an orange-red trumpet. 'Fortune' has soft-yellow petals with a trumpet edged in dark orange. 'Ice Follies' is white with a creamy yellow trumpet.
- Miniature daffodils only reach about 6" tall and include 'Little Gem', 'February Gold' and 'Tete-a-Tete'.
- Double-bloom varieties include buttery-yellow 'Bridal Crown' and pink-and-white 'Replete'.



Hyacinth, Crocus

Glass vases designed for hyacinth and crocus are available at garden centers and florists. Always buy top-sized bulbs for forcing. The best bulbs for forcing are early bloomers with short, strong stems.

- Chill bulbs in the refrigerator in a marked paper bag for 6-8 weeks.
- Put enough water in the container so it just barely touches the base of the bulb.
- Place the container in a cool, dark place; check the water level regularly.
- When the first roots develop, keep water level just below the base of the bulb.
- Store in darkness until roots are well developed and top growth shows.
- When flower buds on crocus are a couple of inches tall, move the vase to a bright location.
- Move hyacinths to light when buds are about 4" tall.

Bulbs bloom in about 3-4 months.

Amaryllis

Amaryllis (*Hippeastrum*) can make a bold color statement in the middle of winter. There are many beautiful varieties in various shades of red, white, pink, salmon and orange, and many striped and multicolored varieties. Of all flowering bulbs, amaryllis are the easiest to bring to bloom. Each bulb produces one or two thick stems, each bearing a cluster of three to six trumpet-shaped blossoms up to 9" across. Most varieties will begin blooming 6-8 weeks after planting although some varieties can take as long as 10 weeks.

Forcing Amaryllis in Soil:

- Buy top-quality bulbs from a trusted supplier. They should be firm and dry, with no dark spots. Remove any dead, dried-out roots, then soak the fleshy roots for 1 hour.
- Choose a container that has a drainage hole and is about 2" wider than the diameter of 1 amaryllis bulb. For groups of 2 or more bulbs, select a wider pot that provides an equally snug fit.
- Use a fast-draining soil medium with enough sand to provide a weighty anchor for the tall full-grown plant, or try a soilless mix of peat, coarse sand, vermiculite and charcoal in a ratio of 3:3:2:1.
- Fill container with potting mix up to bulb "shoulders" (the point where a bulb tapers toward its top, or "nose"). At least $\frac{1}{3}$ of each bulb should project above the mix. Arrange multiple bulbs with shoulders touching.
- Water thoroughly, and set pot in a warm (65-70°), bright place. Water sparingly, until new growth emerges, then water regularly.
- To prolong amaryllis bloom time, move pot to a cooler (about 60°) area, out of direct sunlight, as soon as flowers start to open.



Forcing Amaryllis in Water: Amaryllis grown in water don't always perform as well as those grown in soil.

Place gravel or stones $\frac{2}{3}$ "- $\frac{3}{4}$ " deep in a vase or jar slightly larger than the bulb.

Push the bulb, root side down, lightly into the gravel medium, leaving the top $\frac{1}{3}$ of the bulb exposed. Add water to about an inch below the base of the bulb; the base and the roots should be the only parts of the bulb touching the water to keep the bulb from rotting.

Place the jar in a sunny place, about 60°-75°.

Keep an eye on the water level; check daily and add water as needed.

Within a month there should be a plant shoot emerging as well as roots growing through the gravel. Rotate the vase to promote even growth and beautiful blooms.

Drying Flowers and Plants

Many flowers, grasses, and seed pods lend themselves to drying and can be preserved for years in arrangements and wreaths.

Many common annuals, perennials, and shrubs are suitable for drying. Many wild flowers, grasses, and seed pods also dry well. Good candidates are flowers and seed pods that retain their color and form after they dry. *Unless noted below, flowers are air-dried. Most flowers are dried hanging upside down but a few are dried upright.*

- Pick flowers after dew has dried but before the temperature rises.
- Make small bunches (about 15-20 stems) of a single type. Tie them together with a rubber band to keep the bunch from falling apart as it dries.
- Hang upside down leaving plenty of space between the bunches in a dark, dry space with good air circulation and temperatures between 70°-110°, such as an attic or basement, with low humidity.
- Most flowers dry in about 3 days. Flowers are dry when stems snap; break one to check. If stems are still soft after several days, temperatures may be too cool.
- Seed pods, grasses, and roses may need a few weeks to dry.
- After drying, hang the bunches away from sunlight or store them in boxes in a warm, dark area wrapped in newspaper. Avoid crowding so as not to crush flower heads.
- Some flowers stems are weak and may need to be wired.



Harvest Flowers for Drying When...

Artichoke: choke buds are just opening

Baby's breath: flowers are fully open; *dry upright in 2" of water*

Chinese lantern: lanterns color up

Cockscomb: flower heads reach full color

Feverfew: flowers have just opened

German statice: flowers are fully open

Globe amaranth: flower color is intense

Globe thistle: just before flowers open

Goldenrod: flowers are at peak color

Hydrangea: tiny, true flowers at the center of the heads are fully open and color begins to fade; *cut stem 1' long, split the bottom of the stem 1", and put in vase with 2" of water.*

Lamb's ears: before full flower bloom; *lay on screens*

Larkspur: flowers are open $\frac{2}{3}$ up the stem

Love-in-a-mist: pods are mature

Money plant: pods begin to dry but before seeds turn yellow

Onion family: fully open; *dry upright in an empty vase*

Poppy pods: pod is fully formed

Statice: flowers are fully open; *dry upright in an empty vase*

Strawflower: in bud or before yellow centers are visible; *stems will need to be wired*

Yarrow: flowers are at peak size and color; *dry upright in an empty vase*



Forcing Branches to Bloom in Winter

For a preview of spring, branches of deciduous trees and shrubs can be manipulated in late winter to bloom early.

Good Choices for Forcing:

Acacia, almond, flowering quince, forsythia, magnolia, pussy willow, redbud, witch hazel, fruit trees such as apple, cherry, crabapple, peach, or plum force well.

Remember to prune properly when cutting off branches.

Prune to thin or shape the plant; always prune back to a side branch, never leave stubs.

- For long-lasting blooms, cut stems when the first buds are just showing color or when a few flowers begin to open.
- Cut the stems at a deep angle to maximize the surface area.
- Cut a slit in the bottom of the branch to help the stem absorb water.
- Place stems in a vase filled with warm water and a floral preservative. (A homemade preservative alternative: 2 Tbsp lemon juice, 1 Tbsp sugar, and $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp bleach per quart of water).
- If buds are exceptionally tight and dry, they may be slow to open or may dry up and drop from the branch. To prevent this from happening, completely submerge branches with tight buds in a large bucket (or the bathtub) of lukewarm water and let them soak for several hours or overnight. Remove from the water, cut 1" from the stem's bottom, let them drip dry, then arrange in vases.



Care for Flowering Perennials and Shrubs

<i>Agastache spp.</i> Licorice Mint	Cut back flowering stems in midseason to encourage more blooms; leave stems on plant over winter. (If cut in the fall, hollow stubs act as straws and draw moisture into crown which can cause rot.) Trim old growth to 5" in spring when new growth starts to show around crown.
<i>Artemisia spp.</i> Wormwood, Sagebrush	Woody varieties such as 'Powis Castle' should be cut back every year in spring to 6-12" above ground as new growth emerges. Non-woody types may need cutting back every 2 years or when they start to lose their form.
<i>Aster spp.</i>	To produce sturdy stems on plants that tend to flop, cut back by 1/2 in July before flower buds are set. Divide weak or crowded clumps in fall and replant immediately.
<i>Beberis thunbergii</i> Japanese Barberry	Prune to shape in mid to late winter. Remove dead wood in early summer when it is easily seen. Thin plant and stimulate new growth by cutting out 1-5 stems each year to the base or to a strong shoot low down. <i>When pruning, always wear thorn-proof gloves!</i>
<i>Buddleja davidii</i> Butterfly Bush	Prune yearly in February or when new foliage begins to show. Cut back main stems and branches 1/2- 2/3 their original height, cutting just above an outside growth node. Prune after initial flowering in summer to control growth.
<i>Chrysanthemum superbum</i> Shasta Daisy	Also, <i>C. maximum</i> - Deadhead spent blooms to encourage repeat blooming. Cut back to the ground at the end of the bloom season. Divide clumps in late fall/early spring every 2-3 years or when crowded; discard centers and replant younger, outer growth.
<i>Cistus spp.</i> Rockrose	To keep plants vigorous and neat, cut out a few old stems from time to time. Top pinch young plants to thicken growth.
<i>Convolvulus cneorum</i> Bush Morning Glory	Every 2-3 years, in late winter or early spring, prune severely to renew plant; can get leggy/scraggly if left alone.
<i>Coreopsis spp.</i> Tickseed	Deadhead throughout growing season for longer bloom; use hedge shears to remove large numbers of spent blooms. Mid to late winter cut whole plant back to a few inches from ground. Readily self sows.
<i>Dietes bicolor</i> Fortnight Lily	Remove flower stalks when they die out. Cut out dead leaves at base. Clumps can remain undisturbed for years. When they need to be divided, do so in fall or winter.
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i> Purple Cone Flower	Deadhead throughout growing/blooming season. Late winter, cut back plant to encourage bushy new growth. Carefully divide established clumps just as new growth begins in early spring; be sure each division has a shoot and roots.
<i>Euphorbia spp.</i>	To encourage bushy new growth, cut off bloom stalks at base after flowering and before they set seed.
<i>Feijoa sellowiana</i> Pineapple Guava	Needs very little care. Can take many forms: small tree, shrub, hedge, espalier. Prune/shape/train in early spring.
<i>Geranium spp.</i> Cranesbill	After flowers fade, cut old foliage to within 4" of the ground, or to where new foliage is forming at the crown. Divide in early spring (when the center of a mature clump becomes open and woody with a ring of growth around it), as new foliage comes up. Dig chunks from the edge of the clump, or lift the entire plant and cut it into smaller sections. Discard the woody center and replant divisions immediately.
Ornamental Grasses	Cut back warm season (winter dormant) grasses yearly in late winter or early spring when new growth appears at the base. Divide when they outgrow their space or develop bare centers. Groom cool weather (evergreen) grasses by "combing" out dead blades with fingers or leaf rake; if they start to look ragged, cut them back by 1/3.
<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i> Sunrose	To encourage repeat flowering in the fall and keep plants tidy, shear lightly after spring bloom.
<i>Hemerocallis spp.</i> Daylily	Remove entire flower stem after the last blossom is spent. If leaves turn yellow, remove them by grasping firmly and tugging quickly to snap them off at the base. When clumps become crowded (usually after 3-6 years), divide them in fall or early spring.
Iris - bearded	Divide every 3-4 years when plant goes dormant (August-September); use a spade or garden fork to pry each clump out of the ground. Discard old, leafless rhizomes from the center of the clump. Replant large rhizomes with healthy leaves; trim leaves to about 6".
<i>Kniphofia uvaria</i> Poker Plant	Cut flower spikes after bloom. Cut old leaves to the base in fall; new leaves will replace them by spring. Every 2-3 years divide in late winter, early spring.
<i>Lavandula spp.</i> Lavendar	Start pruning when 2 years old. To keep plants neat and compact, shear back by 1/3 to 1/2 after bloom. If plants become woody and open in center, remove a few of the oldest branches. Avoid pruning during hot weather. Some varieties do not respond well to severe shearing; it may be easier to replace the plant than to try to rejuvenate it.
<i>Nepeta X faassenii</i> Catmint	Shear off faded flowers for repeat bloom. In late winter or early spring, cut back to just above new growth at the base; also divide crowded clumps.
<i>Pelargonium spp.</i> Garden Geranium	For bushy plants, pinch tender new growth in spring, nipping off 1-3 sets of leaves and just-forming flower buds. Remove faded flowers regularly to encourage new blooms.
<i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i> Russian Sage	Trim spent flowers throughout growing season. Cut plants back hard each spring to 12-15" just as new growth emerges.

<i>Rosmarinus officianalis</i> Rosemary	Pinch tips of young plants to encourage bushiness and to prevent long leaders from becoming woody. Trim tips lightly after bloom to groom. Shearing tops will encourage side branches to spread. Prune older plants frequently but lightly; cut to side branch or shear. Plants can live for decades; too much fertilizer and water result in rank, shorter-lived plants.
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i> Black-Eyed Susan	Deadhead throughout growing season to encourage new flowers and to keep plants looking neat. In late winter cut back plant to encourage spring growth. Divide crowded clumps in early spring.
<i>Salvia spp.</i>	All salvias benefit from pruning, either immediately after flowering or as needed to reshape the plant; pruning should begin when the plant is young to avoid a woody center. Never prune below the last leaves into old wood. Prune spent flower stalks back to the most robust new buds to encourage reblooming (for salvias that rebloom) and to keep plants from becoming leggy.
<i>S. greggii</i> Autumn Sage	Cut back spent flowers periodically to encourage continued flowering. Before spring growth begins, shorten and shape plants; remove dead wood. Tip prune throughout growing season to maintain shape and to keep shrubs from becoming leggy.
<i>S. officinalis</i> Garden Sage	Delay pruning until new leaves begin to unfurl, then cut just above fresh growth. Do not cut into bare wood as dieback may result. Replace plants every 3-4 years when woody or leggy.
<i>S. chamaedryoides</i>	Prune all spent flowers 2-3 times during growing season for repeat blooms.
<i>Sedum 'Autumn Joy'</i> Stonecrop	Plants tend to flop; cut back growth by half in spring or early summer when it is 12" high to encourage bushiness. Leave old flower stalks for winter interest; cut to ground in spring.
<i>Stachys byzantina</i> Lamb's Ears	Cut off flowering stems after bloom. As clumps die out in center, divide and replant outer sections in fall, early spring.
<i>Teucrium spp.</i> Germander	<i>T. chamaedrys</i> – Shear slightly 1-2 times per year to keep neat and force side branching. <i>T. fruticans 'Azureum'</i> – Thin and cut back in early spring, after bloom.
<i>Veronica hybrids</i> Speedwell	Deadhead throughout growing season. At end of flowering season (fall to late winter), cut dead stems by half to make plant look tidy (remaining stems will provide frost protection). In spring, shear entire plant to encourage bushy new growth.

CALIFORNIA Natives

<i>Achillea millefolium</i> Common Yarrow	Cut spent flowers to encourage more blooms, prevent floppy growth. Cut back old growth in late winter before new leaves appear. Divide crowded clumps every 2-3 years in early spring.
<i>Arctostaphylos spp.</i> Manzanita	Many varieties, sizes, shapes. Need little or no pruning; control growth with pinching, shaping during growing season.
<i>Ceanothus spp.</i> California Wild Lilac	Many varieties, sizes, shapes. Need little or no pruning; prune after spring flowering to shape and remove old, twiggy growth.
<i>Epilobium canum</i> California Fuschia	Cut to ground after flowering in late fall.
<i>Erigeron karvinskianus</i> Santa Barbara Daisy	Shear back after 80% of blooms have faded to initiate another bloom cycle. Cut to ground in winter to renew.
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i> Toyon	Little or no pruning needed. In garden cultivation, pruning to create new growth will produce an abundance of berries.
<i>Heuchera spp.</i> Coral Bells	<i>H. maxima</i> , <i>H. 'Rosada'</i> - Remove old flower stalks. Divide clumps every 3-4 years in fall. Replant young, vigorous rooted divisions; discard old woody centers.
<i>Iris</i> Pacific Coast Iris	Little or no care needed. Overcrowded clumps can be dug up and replanted in the fall.
<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i> Oregon Grape	Control height and form by pruning; cut to the ground any woody stems that extend beyond the plant; new growth fills in quickly.
<i>Penstemon heterophyllus</i>	After flowering, cut back flower stalks to encourage additional blooms. Cut back old growth in late winter. Divide crowded clumps in early spring.
<i>Ribes spp.</i> Currant	Many varieties, sizes, shapes. Need little or no pruning; prune after spring flowering to shape and remove old, twiggy growth.
<i>Salvia clevelandii</i> Cleveland Sage	Remove faded flower stalks to encourage re-bloom. Prune in two stages: $\frac{1}{3}$ in fall to keep the center from opening up, then $\frac{1}{2}$ in spring.
<i>S. leucantha</i> Mexican Sage	Cut back close to the ground every year in early spring before new growth emerges. To keep plants from flopping, tip pinch shoots or cut them back during growing season by no more than $\frac{1}{3}$, keeping most of the leaves on each stem. Any pruning before bloom season will delay flowering. Remove blossoms as they fade. Divide every 2-3 years in spring.

Monthly Planting

January

Ornamentals

Annuals:

- *Outdoors direct seed:* baby's breath, calendula, CA poppy, cornflower, larkspur, snapdragon, verbena

• *Indoors start seeds:*

- aster, coleus, forget-me-not, hollyhock, purple cone flower, stock, verbena

Perennials: hellebore

Bulbs: anemone, calla

Vegetables

• *Outdoors direct seed:*

- bok choy, broccoli rabe, lettuce, mustard, onions, radicchio, radish

• *Outdoors plant seedlings:*

- asparagus, bok choy, onion sets

• *Indoors start seeds:*

- broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, leaf lettuce, peppers, tomatoes

Bare Root

Deciduous fruit trees, strawberries, cane berries, blueberries, grapes

April

Ornamentals

Annuals:

- *Outdoors direct seed:* alyssum, aster, celosia and other amaranths, cosmos, marigold, portulaca, salvia, scabiosa, sunflower, verbena, zinnia

• *Indoors start seeds:*

- aster, cosmos, hollyhock, salvia, scabiosa

Perennials: astilbe, blue marguerite, dianthus, hibiscus, peony, verbena, wallflower, yarrow

Shrubs: abelia, bougainvillea, buddleja, ceanothus, lavender, oleander, rosemary, spiraea

Bulbs: begonia, calla, canna, dahlia, gladiolus, tuberose

Vegetables

• *Outdoors direct seed:*

- beets, carrots, celeriac, celery, chard, jicama, mustard, potatoes, radish, spinach, squash

• *Outdoors plant seedlings:*

- eggplant, melon, peppers, squash, sweet potatoes, watermelon

Fruit Trees

avocado, citrus

February

Ornamentals

Annuals:

- *Outdoors direct seed:* alyssum, baby's breath, calendula, CA poppy, cornflower, forget-me-not, larkspur, nasturtium, snapdragon

• *Indoors start seeds:*

- alyssum, aster, cosmos, hollyhock, salvia, marigold

Perennials: alstroemeria, bleeding heart, coral bells, dianthus, hellebore

Shrubs: Choose in-bloom azaleas, camellias, rhododendrons

Bulbs: amaryllis (naked lady), calla, canna, dahlia, gladiolus, lily

Vegetables

• *Outdoors direct seed:*

- beets, broccoli rabe, chard, chives, collards, kohlrabi, lettuce, mustard, peas, radish

• *Outdoors plant seedlings:*

- broccoli, cabbage, kale

• *Indoors start seeds:*

- eggplant, peppers, tomatoes

March

Ornamentals

Annuals:

- *Outdoors direct seed:* alyssum, aster, celosia, cornflower, cosmos, larkspur, nasturtium, portulaca, rudbeckia, salvia, sunflower, zinnia

• *Outdoors plant seedlings:*

- alyssum, bellflower, coreopsis, foxglove, impatiens, lobelia, marigold, petunia

• *Indoors start seeds:*

- four-o'clocks, marigold, scabiosa

Perennials: bergenia, coreopsis, cyclamen, geranium, hellebore, lavender, marguerite, peony, Shasta daisy

Bulbs: begonia, calla, canna, dahlia, gladiolus, lily, tuberose

Vegetables

• *Outdoors direct seed:*

- bok choy, broccoli rabe, lettuce, mustard, radicchio, radish

• *Outdoors plant seedlings:*

- artichoke, asparagus, bok choy, onion sets

• *Indoors start seeds:*

- broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, leaf lettuce, peppers, tomatoes

June

Ornamentals

Annuals:

- *Outdoors direct seed:* alyssum, celosia, cosmos, four-o'clocks, marigold, morning glory, sunflower, zinnia

Perennials: bee balm, blue-eyed grass, coreopsis, lantana, lavender, purple coneflower, salvia, verbena

Shrubs: buddleja, ceanothus

Bulbs: begonia, dahlia

Vegetables

• *Outdoors direct seed:*

- chard, corn, cucumbers, melon, okra, pumpkins, soy beans, squash, watermelon

• *Outdoors plant seedlings:*

- basil, celery, chives, eggplant, onion sets, sweet potatoes, tomatoes



July

Ornamentals

Annuals:

- Outdoors direct seed: alyssum, celosia, marigold, zinnia, sunflower

- Outdoors plant seedlings: celosia, cosmos, marigold, petunia, verbena, zinnia

Perennials: chrysanthemum

Shrubs and Trees: Choose in bloom—crape myrtle, oleander

Vegetables

- Outdoors direct seed: celeriac, parsnip, rutabaga

- Indoors start seeds: Brussels sprouts, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower

October

Ornamentals

Annuals:

- Outdoors direct seed: CA poppy, cornflower, foxglove, hollyhock, larkspur, nasturtium, poppy, scabiosa, stock, sweet pea

- Outdoors plant seedlings: bellflower, calendula, foxglove, Iceland poppy, pansy, snapdragon, stock, viola

- Indoors start seeds: aster, baby's breath, calendula, coleus, forget-me-not, salvia, snapdragon, stock, verbena, viola

Perennials: aster, chrysanthemum, purple coneflower, salvia

Bulbs: allium, anemone, calla, canna, daffodil and narcissus, freesia, Dutch iris, giant amaryllis, lily, muscari, ranunculus, scilla, sparaxis

Shrubs: azaleas, Japanese camellia, daphne, forsythia, quince

Trees: Choose deciduous trees showing fall color:

Chinese pistache, ginkgo, red oak, red maple, scarlet oak, tupelo

Vegetables

- Outdoors direct seed: bok choy, broccoli rabe, chard, collards, endive, fava beans, garlic, leaf lettuce, mustard, onion sets, peas, radicchio, radish, shallots, spinach

- Outdoors plant seedlings: bok choy, broccoli, broccoli rabe, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, fennel, kale, kohlrabi, leaf lettuce, onions

August

Ornamentals

Annuals:

- Outdoors direct seed: alyssum, celosia

- Outdoors plant seedlings: alyssum, lobelia, marigold, petunia, salvia, zinnia

- Indoors start seeds: aster, salvia, viola

Vegetables

- Outdoors direct seed: beets, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celeriac, celery, chard, collards, endive, fennel, head lettuce, kale, leeks, mustard, onions, parsnips, potatoes

- Indoors start seeds: kohlrabi



November

Ornamentals

Annuals:

- Outdoors direct seed: CA poppy, cornflower, larkspur, salvia, scabiosa, stock, sweet pea

- Outdoors plant seedlings: calendula, Canterbury bells, foxglove, Iceland poppy, pansy, primrose, snapdragon, stock

- Indoors start seeds: aster, baby's breath, calendula, coleus, forget-me-not, foxglove, snapdragon, stock, viola

Perennials: aster, chrysanthemum, purple coneflower, salvia

Bulbs: allium, anemone, calla, crocus, daffodil and narcissus, Dutch iris, freesia, hyacinth, ranunculus, tulip

Shrubs: azalea, Japanese camellia, daphne, sasanqua camellia

Trees: Choose deciduous trees showing fall color:

Chinese pistache, trident maple

Vegetables

- Outdoors direct seed: bok choy, broccoli rabe, chard, fava beans, garlic, leaf lettuce, mustard, onion sets, radicchio, radish, shallots, spinach

- Outdoors plant seedlings: bok choy, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, fennel, kale, kohlrabi, leaf lettuce, onions, snow peas, pod peas

September

Ornamentals

Annuals:

- Outdoors direct seed: CA poppy and other wildflowers, cornflower, foxglove, hollyhock, larkspur, poppy, sweet peas

- Outdoors plant seedlings: ornamental cabbage and kale, pansy, primrose, stock, snapdragon, viola

- Indoors start seeds: aster, baby's breath, calendula, coleus, forget-me-not, salvia, snapdragon, stock, verbena, viola

Perennials: bearded iris, blue-eyed grass, coral bells, chrysanthemum, dianthus, hellebore, Pacific coast iris

Bulbs: allium, anemone, crocus, daffodil and narcissus, Dutch iris, freesia, lily, muscari, ranunculus, scilla, sparaxis, watsonia

Shrubs: azalea, Japanese camellia, daphne, Oregon grape, pieris, quince

Vegetables

- Outdoors direct seed: beets, bok choy, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, chard, collards, endive, fennel, garlic, lettuce, kale, mustard, peas, radicchio, radish, shallots, turnips

- Outdoors plant seedlings: bok choy, broccoli, broccoli rabe, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, fennel, kohlrabi, lettuce, peas, spinach

- Indoors start seeds: kohlrabi

December

Ornamentals

Annuals:

- Outdoors direct seed: CA poppy, cornflower, larkspur, salvia, scabiosa

- Outdoors plant seedlings: foxglove, pansy, snapdragon, viola

- Indoors start seeds: aster, baby's breath, calendula, forget-me-not

Perennials: astilbe, columbine, cyclamen, peony

Vegetables

- Outdoors direct seed: bok choy, broccoli rabe, Brussels sprouts, fava beans, kale, mustard, onion sets, radicchio, radish

- Outdoors plant seedlings: bok choy, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, fennel, kale, kohlrabi, leaf lettuce, onions, peas

Herb and Edible Flower Planting Schedule

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Basil	PL	PL	PL									PL
Borage		PL										
Calendula	PL		PL						PL	PL	PL	PL
Carnation	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL			
Catmint	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL				PL	PL	PL
Chervil												
Chives			PL	PL	PL							
Chrysanthemum	PL	PL							PL	PL		
Cilantro	PL	PL								PL	PL	PL
Clover												
Cornflower		PL	PL	PL					PL	PL	PL	
Daylily			PL	PL	PL				PL	PL	PL	
Dill	PL	PL	PL									PL
Elderberry			PL	PL	PL				PL	PL		
English Daisy									PL	PL	PL	
Fennel											PL	
Fuchsia				PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL			
Garden Sorrell												
Hibiscus/ Rose of Sharon	PL	PL	PL								PL	PL
Hollyhock	PL	PL	PL						PL	PL	PL	
Hyssop		PL	PL	PL					PL	PL		
Impatiens	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL					
Lavender		PL	PL	PL	PL	PL						
Lilac		PL	PL	PL	PL							
Marigold		PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL					
Mustard												
Nasturtium		PL	PL									
Pansy/Viola									PL	PL	PL	PL
Parsley	PL	PL	PL									PL
Peony									PL	PL	PL	
Petunia	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL			PL	PL		
Primrose		PL	PL	PL	PL							
Radish												
Rose	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL						
Rosemary		PL	PL	PL	PL	PL						
Scarlet Runner Beans				PL	PL	PL						
Scented Geranium		PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	
Snapdragon	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL			PL	PL	PL	PL
Squash				PL	PL	PL	PL					
Summer Savory	PL	PL	PL									PL
Sunflower				PL	PL	PL	PL					
Tuberous Begonia			PL	PL	PL							
Yarrow		PL	PL	PL								
Yucca	PL	PL	PL									
Zinnia			PL	PL	PL	PL	PL					

direct seed outdoors

start seed indoors

Plant seedlings, transplants, bulbs, tubers

additional UCCE Master Food Preserver Recipes

Cheryl's Cajun Spice Recipe

5 ground bay leaves
½ tsp dried oregano
1 Tbsp plus 1 tsp onion powder
1 tsp each black pepper, dried thyme, cumin seed, white pepper
⅓ C Hungarian paprika
1 Tbsp plus 1 tsp garlic powder
½ tsp cayenne pepper (optional)
1½ tsp celery seed

- Pulse bay leaves in coffee grinder until pulverized.
- Add dried oregano, dried thyme, celery seed, and cumin seed. Pulse together until pulverized.
- Mix all ingredients well in small bowl, store in airtight container for one month.

Source: Cheryl K, UCCE Master Food Preserver of El Dorado County

Jellies are made from juice. You can make juice from just about anything by cooking it in water, getting the flavor from the product, then draining off the solids and using the liquid as the juice.

This jelly is a beautiful golden jar of goodness that tastes great as savory condiment/glaze for meats or simply added to toast or yogurt at breakfast.

Fresh Herb Jelly

Yield: about 5 half-pints

2 C loosely packed coarsely chopped herbs of your choice
1½ C unsweetened apple juice or dry white wine
1 C water
1 C white wine vinegar
6 Tbsp powdered pectin
5½ C sugar

- Combine herbs, apple juice, water, and vinegar in a large stainless steel saucepan. Bring to a boil over medium heat. Remove from heat, cover and let steep for 15 minutes. Stir well, pressing herbs to extract flavor.
- Transfer herb mixture to a dampened jelly bag or a strainer lined with several layers of dampened cheesecloth set over a deep bowl. Let drip, undisturbed, for 30 minutes. Measure 3 ¼ C juice.
- Transfer herb juice to a clean large, deep stainless steel saucepan. Whisk in pectin until dissolved. Bring to a boil over high heat, stirring frequently. Add sugar all at once and return to a full rolling boil, stirring constantly. Boil hard, stirring constantly, for 1 minute.
- Remove from heat and quickly skim off foam.
- Ladle hot jelly into hot jars, leaving ¼" headspace. Wipe rims with a dampened clean paper towel; adjust two-piece metal canning lids.
- Process in a boiling water or atmospheric steam canner for 10 minutes at 0-1,000' elevation, 15 minutes at 1,001-3,000', 20 minutes at 3,001-6,000', 25 minutes at 6,001-8,000', and 30 minutes at 8,001-10,000'.

Source: freshpreserving.com, 2018



Herb Soup Wreaths

Herb wreaths add delicious flavor to your favorite soup recipe. Added during the last ten minutes of cooking, these wreaths will enliven the flavors of any soup.

These wreaths, about five inches in diameter, combine five to seven herbs from your garden.

The foundation of your wreath is best with an herb with sturdy stems such as rosemary or winter savory. Use binder clips to fasten your foundation herb in a circle, then slowly add three or four sprigs of some of your favorite herbs; gently wrap with parsley stems, onion tops, lemon grass, or chives.

Remember that some herbs like rosemary and oregano are more overpowering than others. Once you've added your choice of herbs, remove clips and set in a cool, dark place to dry.

The contents of your wreath will depend on the season of the year. During November rosemary, thyme, oregano, French tarragon, onion tops, parsley, sage, sweet marjoram, winter savory, bay leaves, and lemon grass are available.

Once completely dry, wrap loosely in tissue paper and place in a plastic bag. Include a card with the herbs used and a favorite soup recipe and give as gifts to friends and family.

