

Lettuce Unite!

Seed Libraries and Beyond



Presented by
UC Master Gardeners of Placer County
And the Loomis Seed Library



University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources UCCE Master Gardener Program

Who Are Master Gardeners?

Master Gardeners of Placer County

- ❖ Extend **research-based**, sustainable gardening and composting information
- ❖ Present accurate, impartial information to **home gardeners**
- ❖ Encourage public to make **informed** gardening decisions



UC Master Gardeners of Placer County

Who Are Master Gardeners?

Where to find us...

Online, in the Media, and Special Publications

- ❖ Hotline: Call **(530) 889-7388** or submit your questions online
- ❖ Website: pcmg.ucanr.org
- ❖ Facebook, Twitter, Instagram
- ❖ Gold Country Media monthly column
- ❖ *Curious Gardener* quarterly newsletter; email and on website
- ❖ *Gardening Guide and Calendar*



UC Master Gardeners of Placer County

Who Are Master Gardeners?

Where to find us...YES!

Workshops, Fairs and Festivals and Special Events

- ❖ Speakers by Request
- ❖ Workshops (various venues, check website)
- ❖ Farmers' Markets (seasonal: Auburn, Roseville)
- ❖ Fairs and Festivals Booths (varies)
- ❖ Garden Faire (April)
- ❖ Mother's Day Garden Tour (May)



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Who Are Master Gardeners?

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Placer Pests | Gardening Essentials | Gardening Year Round | Vegetables | Landscape Plants | Fruits & Nuts | UC Gardening Guides

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Upcoming Events

Event Name	Date
Lettuce Unite! Zoom Workshop	2/5/2022
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Virtual Gardening Workshops

To view previous workshops: [Recorded Virtual Gardening Workshops 1 31 2022](#)

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See Hotline Update (above)

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Specifically designed for foothill gardeners, the [Placer County Planting Guide](#) shows what and when to plant in your

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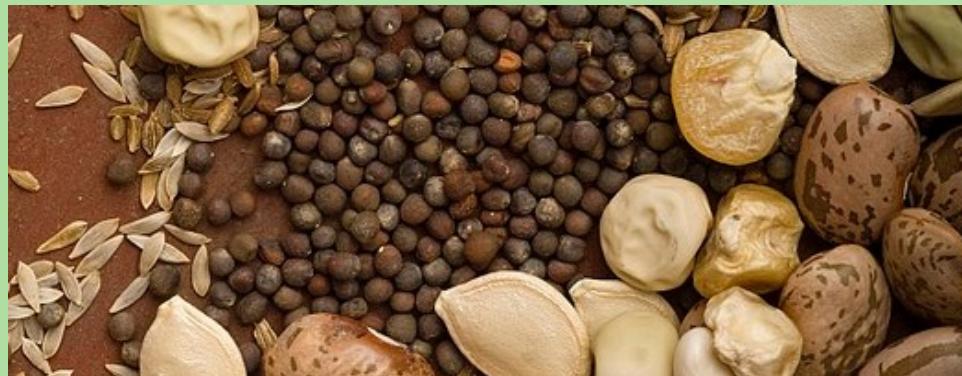
2022 Gardening Guide & Calendar

5

Let's Look at your Handouts

- Resources Page
- Seed Chart
- Six Tips for Saving Seeds
- Easy Peasy Seeds

Available on pcmg website with recorded presentation.



Agenda

- What is a seed library?
- How do I ‘borrow’ seeds?
- How do I ‘return’ seeds?
- How do I save seeds?

Agenda

- What is a seed library?



From mammoth to lunchbox sized!

• What is a seed library?



Loomis Seed Library

- How do I ‘borrow’ seeds?

Drawers hold
seed packets



Spring = Warm Season veg.

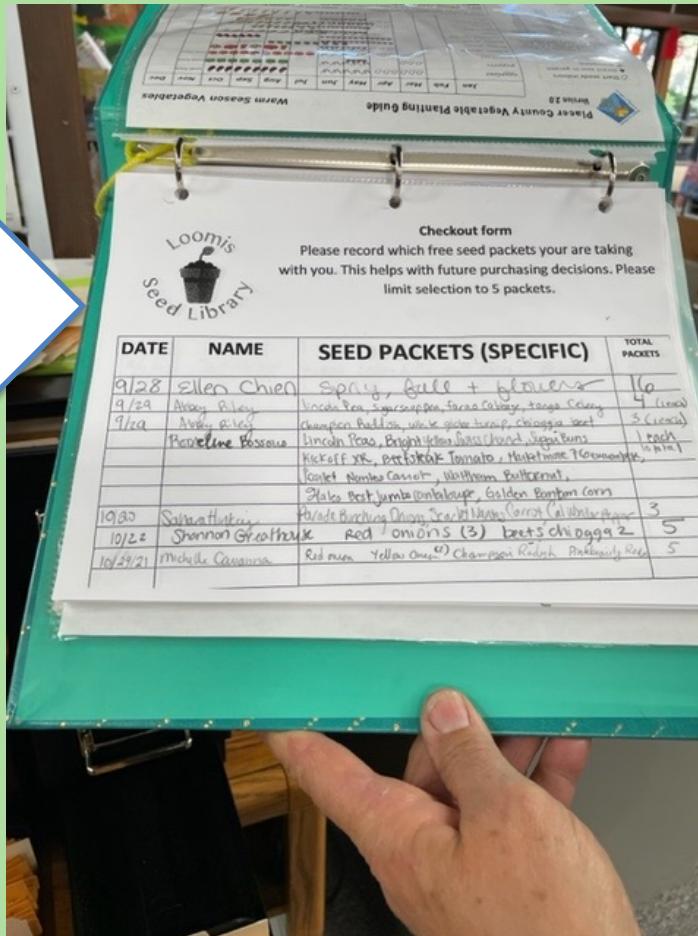
- How do I ‘borrow’ seeds?

Sign out seeds
Up to 5 packets



• How do I ‘borrow’ seeds?

Enter information



• How do I ‘return’ seeds?

Easy as 1-2-3!

1. Follow seed saving protocols
2. Enter data on Seed Label
3. Return seed packet to library.

LOOMIS Seed Lending Library

Common name: _____

Scientific name: _____

Variety: _____

Grower's name: _____

Location of harvest: _____

Year: _____

Notes: _____

Difficulty of seed to save:

Easy Difficult Hand-pollinate

Seeds saved from _____ (Qty.) plants.

Thank you for saving seeds!

Please return some at the end of the season.

Returning Seeds is optional

- How Do I Save Seeds?

OK

- Let's Get Started...

Agenda

- Why Save Seeds?
- What to Save?
- Plan for Saving
- How to Save?

Now let's grow...



Why Save Seeds?

The beauty of seeds is rivaled only by their purpose.

Within the confines of the seed coat, every seed holds a connection to the future and to the past.

The embryonic plant that rests within a seed contains not only the promise of what is to come as it is nurtured and grows from a young seedling into a mature plant, but also the history and traits that properly saved seeds pass down from generation to generation.

From The Seed Garden: The Art and Practice of Seed Saving

Why Save Seeds?

- Cultivate locally adapted plants
- Preserve natural diversity
- Protect heirloom varieties
- Get free seeds
- Create new varieties?
 - By choice or accidentally.
 - Good thing or not.....

What to Save?

Gardeners Choose

- Taste and Texture
- Productivity
- Bearing-early, late
- Disease/pest resistance
- Drought tolerance
- Slow bolting (temperature)

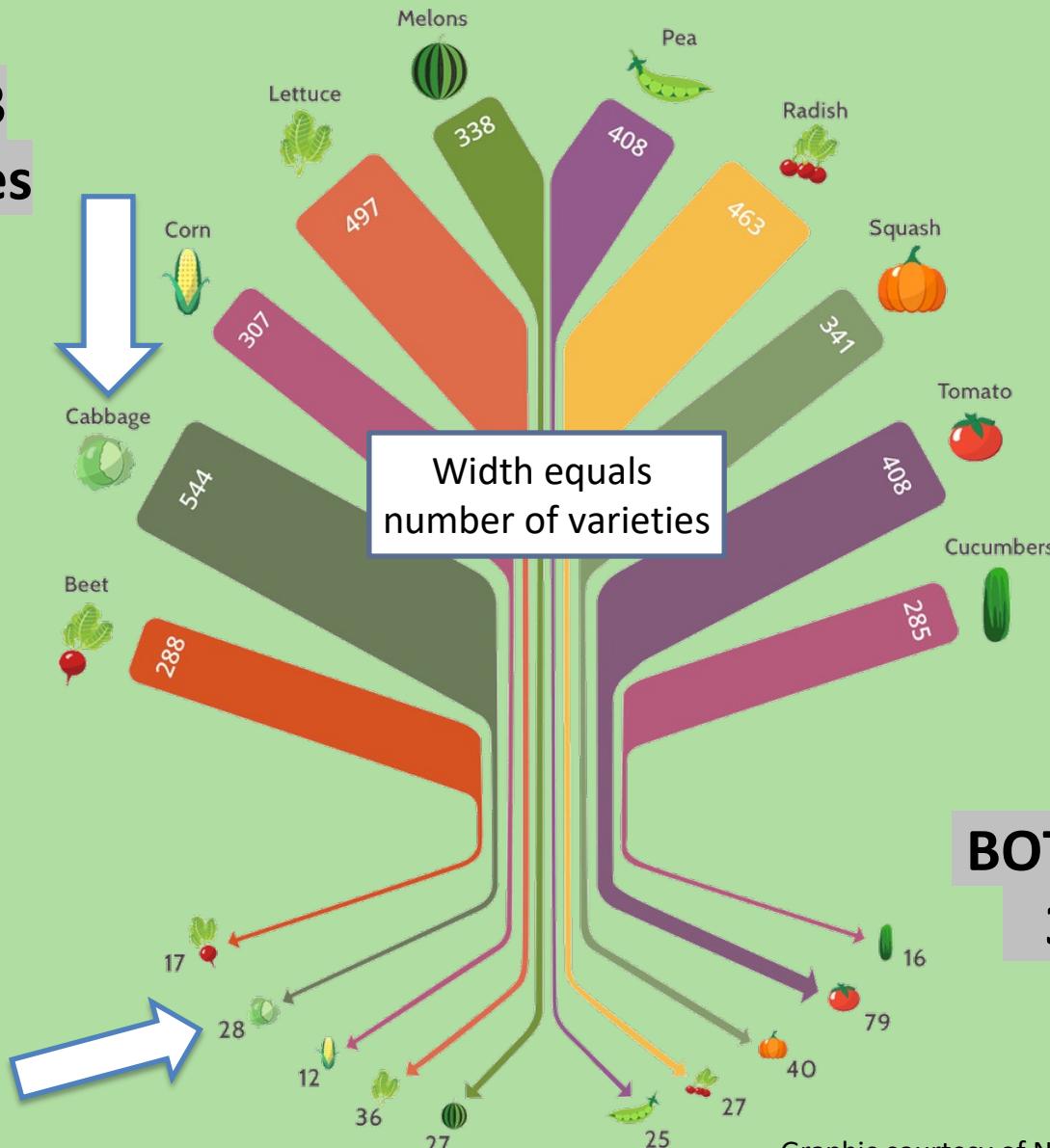
What to Save?

Corporations Choose

- Uniformity
- Storage life
- Shipping stability
- Cosmetic values

Loss of Seed Variety

TOP = 1903
3,879 choices



BOTTOM = 1983
307 choices
(8%)

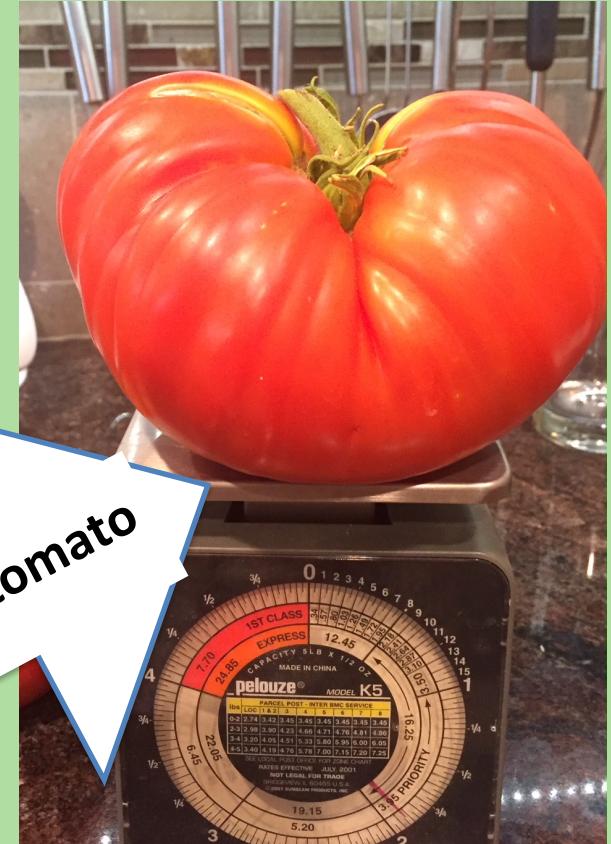
Know Your Parent Plant

Open Pollinated

vs.

Hybrid

1.8 lb. Brandywine heirloom tomato



Photo/tomato

Ingrid Elsel

Know Your Parent Plant

Open Pollinated vs. Hybrid

Open-pollinated plants

Have stable genetic makeup

Breed true-to type

Hybrid plants

Produced by crossing
two distinct parent lines

Often labeled F1

Know Your Parent Plant

Open Pollinated



Know Your Parent Plant

Hybrid

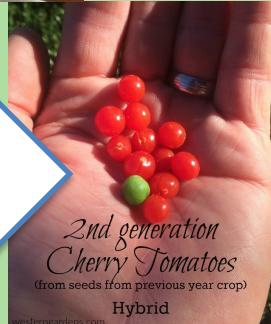


Hybrid seed

Sungold



Not like last year!



Year 2



Midnight Snack

Know Your Parent Plant



Heirloom Varieties

Plan for Seed Saving

- Start with easy crops
- Grow enough plants
- Put space between varieties

Easy Peasy Seeds Handout

Easy Peas-y

- Peas,
- Beans,
- Lettuce,
- Tomatoes,
- Arugula - (crosses with wild arugula weeds),
- Dill - (crosses with wild dill weeds)

Watch videos
on saving Peas and Beans and Lettuce
to help you get started. (Resource sheet)

Now, let's look at the Saving Seeds chart

Download

Saving Seeds



Vegetable	Cycle	Pollination	Vector	Isolation Distance	Seed Longevity	Saving Ease	Direct Trans	Notes
Bean	A	Self		100'	2-3 yrs	easy	D	Lose vigor rapidly.
Soybean	A	Self		100'	2-3 yrs	easy	D	
Beet/Chard	B	Cross	Wind	½ mi	3-5 yrs	*	D	Beets cross with chards.
Broccoli/ Kale/ Cauliflower	B	Cross	Insects	½ mi	3-5 yrs		T	Crossing among brassica species is complex. Consult a good reference book.
Carrot	B	Cross	Insects	1500*	2-3 yr	*	D	Crosses with wild species, like Queen Anne's Lace.
Celery	B	Cross	Insects	1500*	2-3 yrs	*	T	http://vric.ucdavis.edu/pdf/celery.pdf
Corn	A	Cross	Wind	½ mi	2-3 yrs		D	Adequate pollination essential.
Cucumber	A	Cross	Insects	1500*	5-10 yrs		D/T	Harvest at yellow blimp stage.
Eggplant	A	Self		150'	2-3 yrs	easy*	T	
Leek	B	Cross	Insects	1500*	2-3 yrs	*	D	
Onions	B	Cross	Insects	1500*	1 yr	*	D	Sets produce green onions.
Lettuce	A	Self		50'	2-3 yrs	easy	D/T	
Melon	A	Cross	Insects	½ mi	3-5 yrs		D/T	Muskmelons will not cross with watermelons.
Mustard	A	Cross	Insects	½ mi	3-5 yrs		D/T	Crosses with wild species.
Pea	A	Self		50;	2-3 yrs	easy	D	Do not save from diseased plants.
Pepper	A	Both	Insects	500'	2-3 yrs		T	Some varieties cross more readily than others.
Radish	A	Cross	Insects	1500*	2-3 yrs		D	
Spinach	A	Cross	Wind	½ mi	2-3 yrs	*		
Squash/ Pumpkin	A	Cross	Insects	1500*	2-5 yrs		D/T	Moschata 2-3 yrs, pepo & maxima 3-5 yrs. These three species generally do not cross.
Tomato	A	Self		25-100'	5-10 yrs	easy	T	Potato-leaf types need the greater isolation distance.

How to Save Seeds

- Know when seeds are mature
- Collect your bounty
- Store safely

Mature Seeds



Bean seeds



Lettuce seeds



Tomatoes

Bag Fragile Seeds



Save Your Seeds



Dry Seed Saving



Decanting Seeds

Save Your Seeds



Fungus layer

Decanting Seeds

Wet Seed Saving

Dry Your Seeds



Store Seeds Safely



Sharing Seeds



Seed Saving Rules

- Plan for food AND seed
- Know the seed saving rules!!!
 - Not Hybrid varieties!
 - Start with Easy-Peasy
 - Seed chart advice
- Proper cleaning, drying, storage

Let's Recap...

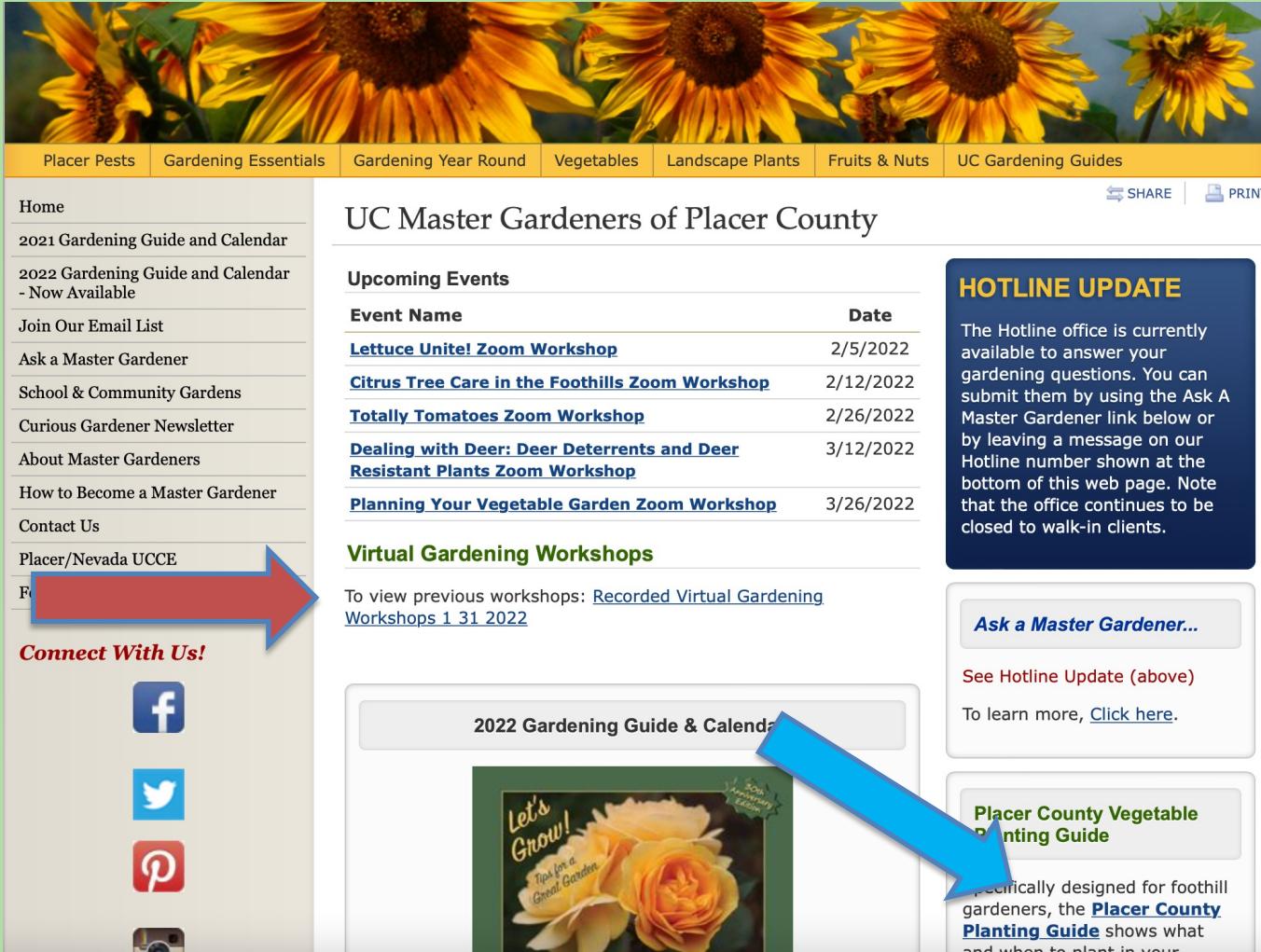
Saving seeds allows:

- More choices
- Varieties you enjoy
- Plants adapted to your garden



Growing Vegetables

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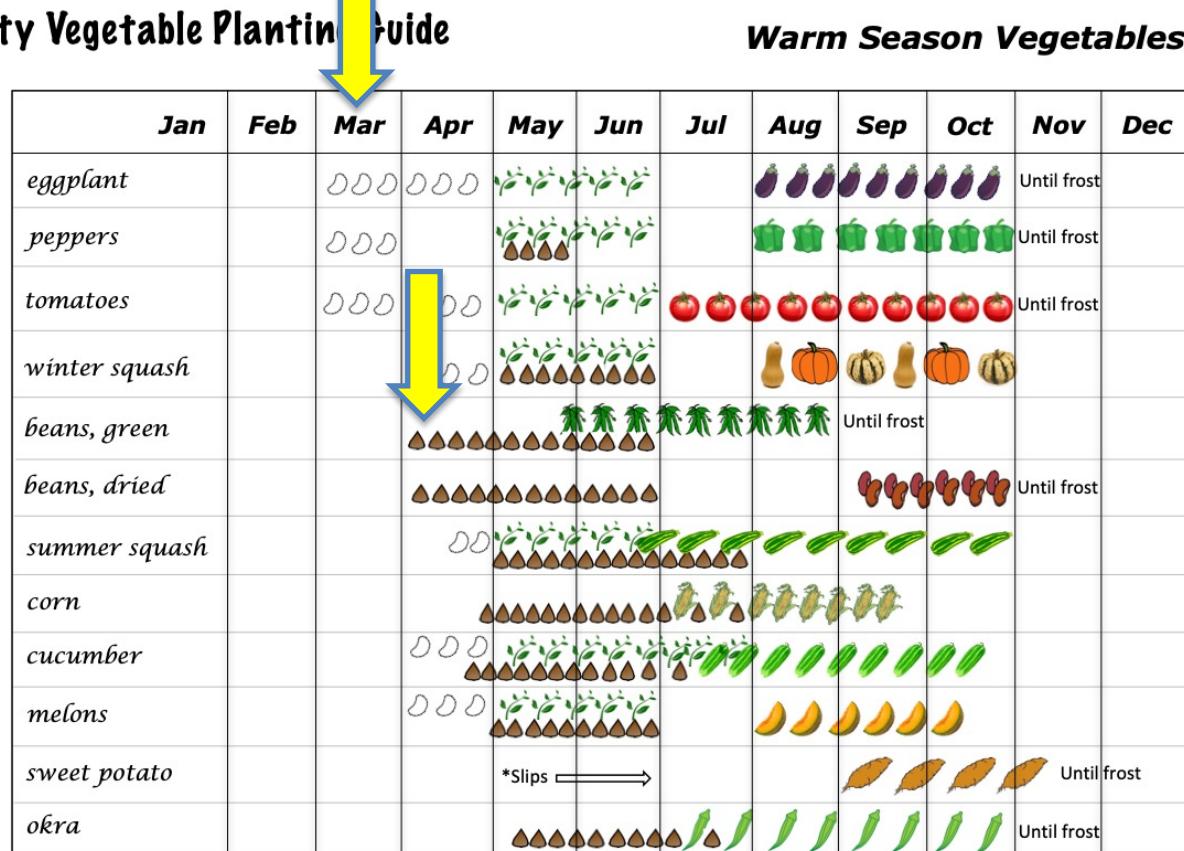


Growing Vegetables



The dates on this chart are for gardens at about 1200' of elevation. For Winter/Spring planting, gardeners at higher elevations should delay planting by about 2 weeks for every 1000' above 1200'. Gardeners at lower elevations should plant about 2 weeks earlier for every 1000' below 1200'.

City	Approx. Elevation	Avg. Last Frost Date
Roseville	165'	3/15
Lincoln	165'	3/15
Rocklin	250'	3/23
Loomis	400'	3/26
Granite Bay	480'	3/26
Penryn	625'	3/26
Newcastle	950'	4/2
Auburn	1225'	4/2
Meadow Vista	1700'	4/9
Applegate	2000'	4/9
Weimar	2250'	4/9
Colfax	2425'	4/9
Foresthill	3225'	4/16



Planting and harvest dates may vary between varieties; please check seed packets for details.

Frost dates are approximate due to recent climate changes and varying topography within Placer County.

Acknowledgments: Thank you to Professor Emeritus, Dr. Robert Norris at the UC Davis Plant Sciences Department and the El Dorado County Master Gardeners for the inspiration to create a local planting guide for Placer County.

Master Gardeners of Placer County can be reached at (530) 889-7388, or online at pcmg.ucanr.org.

*Sweet potato slips are rooted cuttings. Please go to sacmg.ucanr.edu/files/187714.pdf for more information.



Thank You!

Any Questions?

Master Gardener Hotline: **(530) 889-7388**
Master Gardener Rot Line: **(530) 889-7399**
Master Gardener Website: **pcmg.ucanr.org**



UC Master Gardeners of Placer County

???

In Closing

Let's consider this a journey we are embarking upon together, We will learn as we go—

- From the plants
- From each other
- and from our 'mistakes'

This is an adventure we can share.
Come back and tell us how your journey went.
We will have stories to tell, too.

Seed Saving Questions

Is this plant a hybrid or an open pollinated variety?

Is this a plant I *should* save seed from?

How far does this plant need to be planted from others to “breed true” or does this plant need others to be properly pollinated (think “self-pollinated” vs needing “cross pollination”)?

Where/when do the seeds form on this plant?

How are the seeds naturally dispersed?

When are the seeds ripe?

Was the plant that you want to save seed from healthy?

How do you clean the seeds? Dry, ferment, etc.

Store your seeds in a cool dry place.

Don't save them for too long. Check the viability chart.

Don't give up!





Thank You!

Any Questions?

Evaluations, Please!

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