

Garden Layouts for Mecklenburg County, NC

Cool-Season Vegetables, Fruits, & Herbs

Fall Is for Planting!

The climate of the southern Piedmont of North Carolina allows 3 growing seasons - spring, summer, and fall. Most vegetables are annuals that complete their life-cycle in a single growing season. Some thrive and grow to maturity in cooler temperatures (cool-season vegetables), others prefer the heat of summer (warm-season vegetables), and a few are perennial continuing to grow and produce year after year. The two garden layouts provided here are designed for a **4' by 10' raised bed with a depth of 8" or more**, suitable for school gardens, community gardens, or back yards; **each garden square is 1 ft²**. A trellis on the north side of the bed as indicated on layouts is useful for supporting tall vining crops; install any other supports while plants are small to avoid damaging feeder roots. Remember crops need healthy soil (TIP: amend bed with finished compost before planting), a minimum of 6-8 hours sunlight daily, and regular water (TIP: mulch beds with organic soil conditioner to conserve moisture and protect crops from dropping temperatures). Cool temperatures make a gardener's job easier by naturally minimizing crop damage due to pests and diseases.

Many edibles planted in the late summer and early fall (like collards, Swiss chard, and kale) are very frost hardy and with the relatively mild winters in Mecklenburg County provide a harvest of fresh produce all winter long! Others, like spinach, may go dormant but begin producing again as soon as temperatures begin to warm; some like peas and lettuces are damaged by hard frosts and freezes. As listed below, each garden layout offers suggested crops for late summer/early fall planting; other suitable cool-season choices are available and gardeners must determine the quantities and varieties of crops best for them. A few specific varieties that are Mecklenburg Extension Master Gardener favorites are also provided in the list.

- ❑ **Arugula** (S) – also called rocket or roquette offers spicy leaves for a cut-and-come-again harvest (cut leaves and new leaves grow back)
- ❑ **Beets** (S) – try ‘Bulls Blood’ with purple-red leaves and heart-shaped roots, or ‘Golden Detroit’ with tasty yellow roots
- ❑ **Broccoli** (T) – ‘Waltham 29’ offers flavorful, hardy plants with healthy greens; ‘Marathon’ is good for over-winter production
- ❑ **Brussel Sprouts** (S, T) – harvest through winter by starting at plant base and working up stalk; try ‘Catskill’ or ‘Long Island Improved’
- ❑ **Cabbage** (T) – ‘Perfection Savoy’ offers richer flavor after frost; compact ‘Red Acre’ has tasty, reddish-purple heads
- ❑ **Carrots** (S) – try ‘Scarlet Nantes’ with sweet mild flavor; ‘Cosmic Purple’ with purple skin; or ‘Little Finger’ a sweet, 3" baby carrot
- ❑ **Cauliflower** (S, T) – try ‘Skywalker’ with cold-tolerant, self-wrapping heads or early-producing, orange ‘Cheddar’
- ❑ **Collard Greens** (S, T) – ‘Champion’ and ‘Georgia Southern’ have sweet flavor that improves with frost
- ❑ **Garlic** (B) – plant soft-neck varieties like ‘California Early’ or ‘Inchelium’ in fall for a late spring harvest of fresh garlic
- ❑ **Kale** (S, T) – try ‘Lacinato’ or ‘Dinosaur Kale’ with great flavor and texture, ‘Red Russian’ with beautiful reddish purple stems
- ❑ **Kohlrabi** (S, T) – to harvest cut tap root at soil line just below bulb when bulbs are under 3"; try ‘Purple Vienna’ or ‘White Vienna’
- ❑ **Lettuce** (S) – harvest leaves above growth point for cut-and-come-again production or at soil line for single harvest; try ‘Rouge de Hiver’ romaine, crisp ‘Buttercrunch,’ or tasty ‘Cherokee’
- ❑ **Mizuna** (S) – harvest mildly spicy, bright green, serrated leaves above growth point for cut-and-come-again production
- ❑ **Mustard Greens** (S, T) – try ‘Giant Red’ with ornamental, delicious purple red leaves or sweet ‘Tendergreen’ or ‘Komatsuna’
- ❑ **Onions** (S, B) – plant short-day onions like ‘Walla-Walla Sweet Spanish’ or ‘Red Creole’ in late summer in rich soil and overwinter; longer spring days promote bulb growth for a late spring harvest

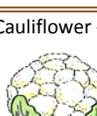
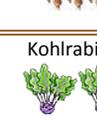
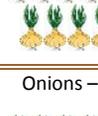
Depending on their growth requirements, edible plants get their start in the outdoor garden as:

- Seeds (S) – direct sow seeds outside
 - Bulbs (B) – plant bulbs outside
 - Transplants (T) – start seeds indoors 4-6 weeks before time to transplant outdoors or purchase transplants (AKA starts or sets)
 - Plants (P) – purchase plants (often advisable for certain perennials)
- ❑ **Oregano** (P) – aromatic delicious leaves accompany many favorite dishes; quick spreading, evergreen perennial
 - ❑ **Parsnips** (S, T) – try ‘Javelin’ for good for overwintering and spring harvests or ‘Lancer’ with slender, flavorful roots
 - ❑ **Peas, Shelling** (S) – also called garden or English peas; try ‘Wando’ a good southern producer or ‘Little Marvel’ a dwarf plant (only 15-20" but still needs some support) with early, steady production
 - ❑ **Peas, Snap/Snow** (S) – trellis for support and harvest when pods are tender and peas are immature; try ‘Dwarf Grey Sugar’ a tasty snow pea or for snap peas try ‘Sugar Snap’ a crunchy, sweet treat
 - ❑ **Radishes** (S) – good varieties for late fall harvest are ‘Watermelon’ with lime green skin and ‘Black Spanish Round’ with black skin
 - ❑ **Rutabega** (S) – try delicious ‘Laurentian’ with purple crowns and yellow flesh or sweet ‘American Purple Top’ roots
 - ❑ **Spinach** (S) – try ‘Bloomsdale Long Standing’ a reliable, heavy-yielding spinach or tasty leaves of cold hardy ‘Winter Giant’
 - ❑ **Swiss Chard** (S, T) – try beautiful, tasty ‘Ruby Red,’ frost-resistant ‘Lucculus,’ or ‘Rainbow’ with multi-colored ribs
 - ❑ **Thyme** (P) – evergreen perennial garden staple with many culinary uses for the aromatic leaves
 - ❑ **Turnips** (S) – perfect in stews or harvest baby turnips to eat fresh; try sweet ‘Golden Globe’ or tasty ‘Purple Top White Globe’

Central NC Planting Calendar for Annual Vegetables, Fruits, and Herbs:
<http://content.ces.ncsu.edu/central-north-carolina-planting-calendar-for-annual-vegetables-fruits-and-herbs.pdf>

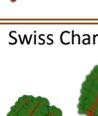
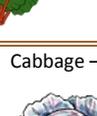
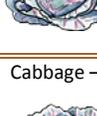
Fall Garden #1

Roast, Bake, Mash, or Sauté Your Fantastic Fall Harvest

Oregano - 1 	Peas, Snap or Snow - 9-16 	Peas, Shelling - 9-16 	Peas, Shelling - 9-16 
Carrots - 16 	Carrots - 16 	Broccoli - 1 	Broccoli - 1 
Spinach - 9 	Turnips - 9 	Broccoli - 1 	Broccoli - 1 
Spinach - 9 	Turnips - 9 	Broccoli - 1 	Broccoli - 1 
Cauliflower - 1 	Cauliflower - 1 	Cauliflower - 1 	Rutabaga - 9 
Garlic - 4 	Mizuna - 9 	Brussel Sprouts - 1 	Rutabaga - 9 
Arugula - 16 	Lettuce - 16 	Brussel Sprouts - 1 	Kohlrabi - 4 
Beets - 9 	Lettuce - 16 	Brussel Sprouts - 1 	Kohlrabi - 4 
Beets - 9 	Radishes - 16 	Onions - 9 	Parsnips - 9 
Thyme - 2 	Radishes - 16 	Onions - 9 	Parsnips - 9 

Fall Garden #2

Glorious Winter Greens!

Oregano - 1 	Peas, Snap or Snow - 9-16 	Peas, Shelling - 9-16 	Thyme - 2 
Mustard Greens - 4 	Spinach - 9 	Collards - 2 	Collards - 2 
Mustard Greens - 4 	Spinach - 9 	Collards - 2 	Collards - 2 
Turnips - 9 	Spinach - 9 	Collards - 2 	Collards - 2 
Turnips - 9 	Swiss Chard - 2 	Swiss Chard - 2 	Carrots - 16 
Lettuce - 16 	Swiss Chard - 2 	Swiss Chard - 2 	Carrots - 16 
Arugula - 16 	Swiss Chard - 2 	Swiss Chard - 2 	Garlic - 4 
Onions - 9 	Cabbage - 1 	Kale - 2 	Kale - 2 
Beets - 9 	Cabbage - 1 	Kale - 2 	Kale - 2 
Beets - 9 	Cabbage - 1 	Kale - 2 	Kale - 2 



1418 Armory Drive:
Charlotte, NC 28204-2420
Office Hours: 8-5 Mon-Fri

Mecklenburg County Center

Phone: 704-336-2082
FAX: 704-336-6876
Website: <http://mecklenburg.ces.ncsu.edu/>



For answers to your garden and lawn care questions, visit www.mastergardenersmecklenburg.org or find Mecklenburg Extension Master Gardeners on Facebook.
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