Year One: Garden Plan

General Planting Tips:
After the last frost passes:

- Plant warm season crops (tomatoes and peppers) only after danger of frost is past. Mix 1/2 cup of lime with soil in the planting hole to prevent blossom end rot. Water each transplant with a soluble fertilizer.
- Pound in stakes or install tomato cages, at planting time, to prevent plant damage later.
- Set out herbs in pots or plant in garden beds.

In June:

- Plant a second crop of beans.
- Learn to ID beneficial insects and keep an eye out for possible pest problems.
- Hand pick cabbage worms from broccoli and other members of the cabbage family.
- Pinch off tomato suckers to encourage larger, earlier fruit, especially if training to one central stem.

Footprint: 3 x 24 ft (each block in map = 1 sq. ft.)

For the Trellises:
- (12) 5 ft. slender sticks or bamboo poles
- Cotton string or twine
- Use for snap peas & scarlet runner beans

For the Tomatoes:
- (2) 5 ft. tall tomato cages

The Plants:
Bed 1 (3ft. x 5ft.):
- Chard (1 packet of seeds)
- Sunflower (1 packet of seeds)
- Mustard (1 packet of seeds)
- Onion (10 sets)
- Peppers (2 transplants)
- Snap Peas (1 packet of seeds)
- Sweet Alyssum (4 or 6 pack transplants)
- Sage (1 transplant)

Bed 2 (3ft x 8ft):
- Cilantro (1 packet of seeds)
- Oregano (1 transplant)
- Lemon Thyme (2 transplants)
- Mixed Lettuce (1 packet of seeds)
- Basil (2 transplant)
- Tomato (2 transplants)

Bed 3(3ft x 5ft):
- Arugula (1 packet of seeds)
- Basil (2 transplant)
- Mesclun-mixed salad greens (1 packet of seeds)
- Onion (10 sets)
- Parsley (2 transplants)
- Scarlet Runner Bean (1 packet of seeds)
- Snap Beans-bush variety (1 packet of seeds)
- Sweet Alyssum 4 or 6 pack transplants

For more information on this and other topics visit the University of Maryland Extension website at www.extension.umd.edu
### Planting Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plants</th>
<th>Spring Planting Date</th>
<th>Planting Depth (Inches)</th>
<th>Planting Distance (Inches)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Snap Peas</td>
<td>March 15–May 1</td>
<td>1”</td>
<td>3”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onions *</td>
<td>April 1-May 1</td>
<td>3 to 4”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregano *</td>
<td>May 1 to June 15</td>
<td>8 to 12”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parsley</td>
<td>April 1 to May 1</td>
<td>1/4”</td>
<td>6 to 8”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chard</td>
<td>April 15” to June 15</td>
<td>1/2”</td>
<td>12 to 18”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lettuce</td>
<td>March 15 to June 1</td>
<td>1/4”</td>
<td>8 to 12”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomatoes *</td>
<td>May 1 to June 15</td>
<td>18 to 30”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peppers *</td>
<td>May 15-June 10</td>
<td>18 to 24”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snap Beans</td>
<td>May 5 to June 30</td>
<td>1 to 1 1/2”</td>
<td>1 to 2”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunflowers</td>
<td>May 1 to June 15</td>
<td>1/2”</td>
<td>18 to 30”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scarlet Runner Beans</td>
<td>March 15–May 1</td>
<td>1”</td>
<td>3”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basil *</td>
<td>May 1 to June 15</td>
<td>8 to 12”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sage *</td>
<td>May 1 to June 15</td>
<td>8 to 12”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thyme *</td>
<td>May 1 to June 15</td>
<td>8 to 12”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alyssum *</td>
<td>May 1 to June 15</td>
<td>8 to 12”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mustard</td>
<td>July 20-August 20</td>
<td>1/4”</td>
<td>12”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Dates are for setting out transplants

### Late Summer:
- Sow seeds of broccoli, cauliflower, turnips, beets and other fall crops in late July.
- Sow seeds of squash, beans and cucumbers through the end of July.
- Monitor squash and pumpkin vines for squash vine borers. If leaves are wilting, or you see holes in the lower stems, with sawdust-like frass around the holes, slit the stem above the hole with a razor and remove the larva. Then mound soil around the injured stem.
- Harvest onions when tops die back; let them dry in the garden after digging them up, or tie the stems together and hang them up in a garage or attic with good air circulation. Store onions in a cool, dry place.

### Fall:
- Dig up small herb plants, pot them in soil-less mix and bring them indoors for winter use. A sunny window, or cool, white fluorescent lights will help keep them productive. Keep them away from excessive heat or drafts, and turn down the thermostat at night.
- Build new garden beds by sheet mulching: cut grass low, cover with sections of newspaper, then with layers of organic matter, such as compost, leaves, garden clippings, kitchen scraps; top with a thick layer of straw or other mulch.
- Start collecting newspaper, and paper bags for sheet mulching in the spring.

### References:
- HG16 Planting Dates for Vegetable Crops in Maryland
- GE003 Monthly Tips for Food Gardeners

---

**Do you have a plant or insect pest question?**

**Visit us at** [extension.umd.edu/hgic](http://extension.umd.edu/hgic)

**and click** Ask Maryland’s Garden Experts

---

**Author:** Rachel Melvin, Horticulture Educator-Queen Anne’s County