



# Sola Gratia Farm

A ministry of St. Matthew Lutheran Church

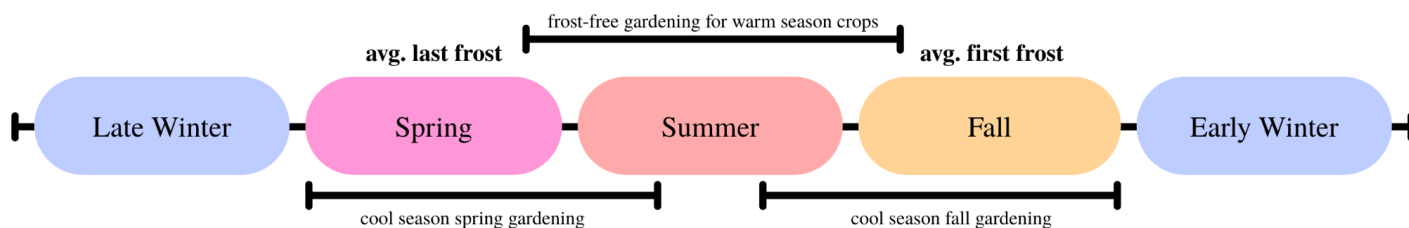
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## GARDEN PLANNING WORKSHOP

### Garden planning: 1. Choose crops.

Cool Season Crops		Warm Season Crops	
Salad greens, like lettuce, spinach, and arugula	DS	Cherry tomatoes	T
Cooking greens, like chard, collards, and mustard	T	Slicing tomatoes	T
Beets	DS	Sweet peppers	T
Carrots	DS	Hot peppers	T
Radishes	DS	Cucumbers	DS
Turnips	DS	Summer squash, like zucchini	DS
Potatoes	DS	Winter squash, like pumpkins and butternut	DS
Broccoli	T	Green beans	DS
Cauliflower	T	Sweet corn	DS
Cabbage	T	Melons	DS
Peas	DS	Eggplant	T
Onions	T	Okra	T
Leeks	T	Sweet potatoes	DS
Celery	T	Tomatillo	T
Herbs: cilantro, dill, parsley, chives	DS	Herbs: basil, thyme, rosemary, oregano	DS



### **Garden planning: 2. Identify crops' seasons.**

- There are 3 gardening seasons in 1 calendar year: spring, summer, and fall. Gardeners plant cool season crops in spring and fall, and warm season crops in the summer.
  - Cool season crops can be planted before or around the average last spring frost for an early summer harvest and planted again in late summer for a fall harvest. They can tolerate a light frost.
  - Warm season crops should be planted after the last spring frost and should all be harvested before the first fall frost. They cannot tolerate frost.
- In Champaign County:
  - the average last spring frost is April 15th.
  - the average first fall frost is October 17th.

### **Garden planning: 3. Identify crops' preferred planting methods.**

- It is recommended to sow seeds directly into your garden for some crops and to transplant seedlings for others.
  - Direct Sow (DS): some crops prefer to have their seeds directly sown into the garden. Follow the instructions on the seed packet to determine seed depth and spacing requirements.
    - Sola Gratia Farm recommends getting seeds from The Urbana Free Library's seed library (located on the 2nd floor), Johnny's Selected Seeds online, or our local plant nurseries like Country Arbors and Prairie Gardens.
  - Transplant (T): other crops require a bit more time and care to start, so it is recommended to either start seeds indoors or purchase seedlings, then transplant them into the garden.

### **Garden planning: 4. Draft a planting calendar.**

Use the blank calendar pages provided to draft a planting schedule. Start by labeling the average last frost date on April 15th, then label the 6-8 weeks before & after that date. Continue by labeling the average first frost date on October 17th, then label the 6-8 weeks leading up to it

Tasks to consider adding to your planting calendar (info can be found on seed packets/Google)

- When to start seeds indoors
- When to transplant seedlings into your garden
- When to direct sow seeds outdoors
- Garden maintenance: when to add plant supports, fertilizer, approximate harvest windows, etc.







Month: \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Reminders
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**Garden planning: 5. Identify growing space(s) & draft a garden map.**

- Gardening looks differently for different people, but generally, there are 3 types of planting spaces. Write down some pros and cons of each type of planting space that could apply to your specific situation.

In ground	Raised beds	Containers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can be for larger spaces</li> <li>• Need to remove grass</li> <li>• May be more weeding</li> <li>• Won't need potting mix</li> <li>• May need fertilizer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can be for smaller spaces</li> <li>• No need to remove grass</li> <li>• May be less weeding</li> <li>• Will need potting mix</li> <li>• May need fertilizer</li> <li>• Will need a raised bed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ideal for smaller spaces</li> <li>• No need to remove grass</li> <li>• Less weeding</li> <li>• Will need potting mix</li> <li>• May need fertilizer</li> <li>• Will need containers</li> </ul>

Use the blank garden layout provided to draft a map. Start by adding a compass rose, a scale (if needed), and outline of the planting area. Approximate plant spacing info can be found on seed packets/Google. It is recommended to plant your tallest crops on the north side of your garden.

A large grid for drafting a garden map, consisting of 20 columns and 20 rows of squares.

## Acknowledgements

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- We hope you'll consider using the skills you've learned here to grow more food to feed your community! The **Solidarity Gardens network** can help! Solidarity Gardens is a collaborative project to build a resilient, community-based food system through gardening. It connects volunteers with community gardens and offers donation sites for garden produce. Solidarity Gardens is a project of Cunningham Township Supervisor's Office, Sola Gratia Farm, and Urbana and Champaign Park Districts. To learn more and get involved, visit [www.solidarity-gardens-cu.org](http://www.solidarity-gardens-cu.org).

