



Spring Garden Templates

No indoor seed starting needed.

How to Use the Garden Templates and Coordinating Tables

The templates are divided by growing season. Each template is designed to be a stand-alone garden plan. However, it may be possible to use multiple templates in the same garden space over the course of a year. In a larger garden, several templates could be used each year or even in each season. The templates are not designed to be the only way or even the best way to plant a garden for your specific school. The templates are a guide to get you started with some options for what to plant and when. As you gain experience and confidence from successes, you can adjust and adapt your planting plans as needed.

The layout of the garden templates was designed with several things in mind. Some templates prioritize diversity of plants and others prioritize simplicity. In many cases, the garden layout is not designed to be efficient or high yielding, but rather to allow for effective learning and hands-on activities to be done with various sizes of groups. Some templates are designed for visual interest and inciting wonder in children rather than maximizing the yield.

If your garden is used for middle school or high school age students, planning and designing their own garden layouts can be a critical part of the learning process. These templates could serve as great starting points for students to study plant spacing and planting times, but do consider having them develop their own plans, research different planting options, or develop alternatives to compare results.

Each template tells a little bit about how easy or difficult it would be to implement the garden, as well as what the expected planting and harvesting window would be for the template. Be sure to pay attention to whether a template requires pre-planting indoors or prior to the school year, purchasing plants, or other preparations. The complexity level indicated reflects both the difficulty of managing the planting times and the difficulty of implementing the layout of the garden.

After each template, there are two tables. The first table provides more information about the recommended planting time, how to plant, and short notes are choosing a good variety. The second table gives alternatives to substitute for each plant recommended in the template. This allows for each garden to be adjusted to meet the needs of the school or student group.

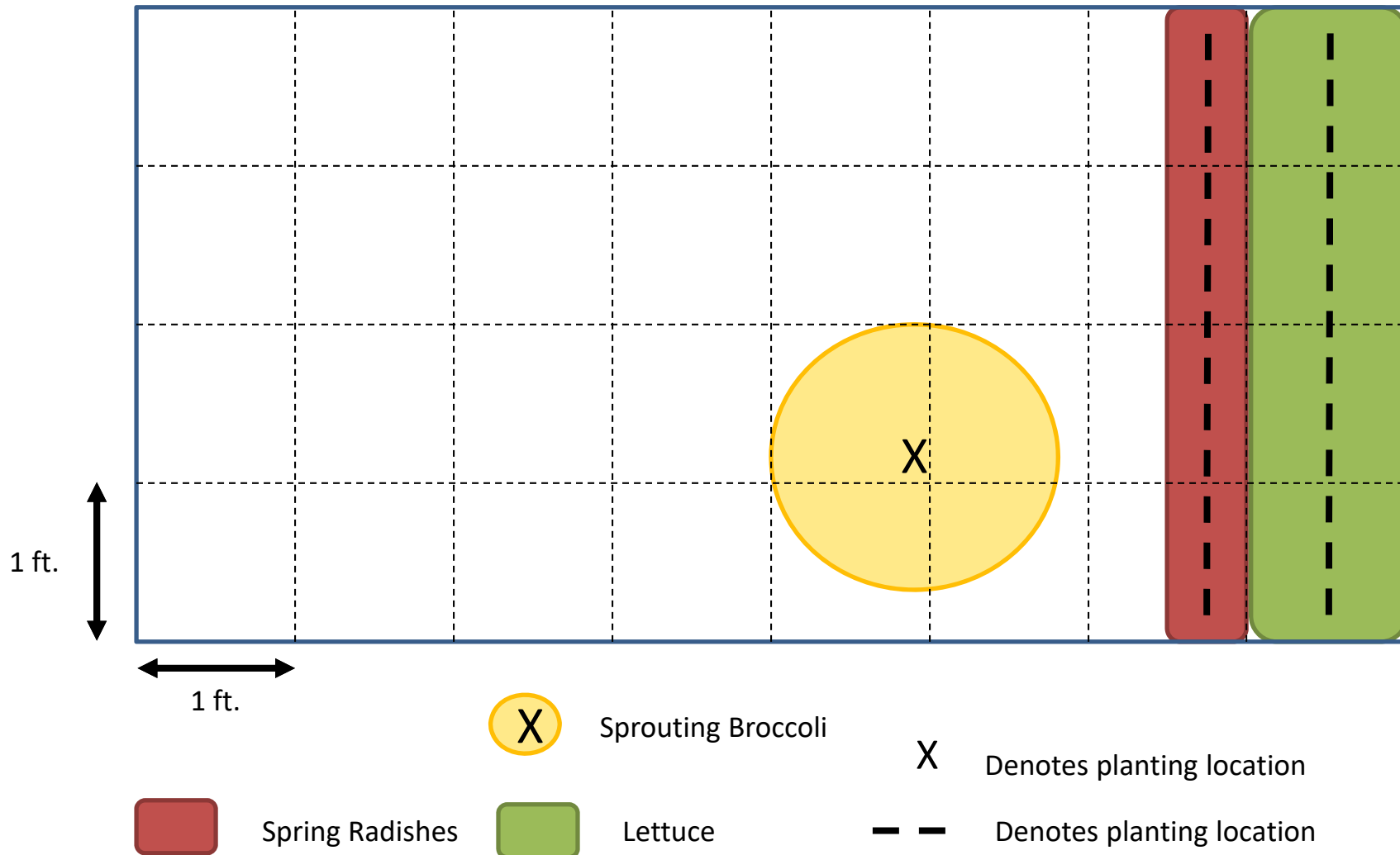
For more information about each recommended plant in the guide, refer to the document, ***Notes on Plant Choices for Kansas School Gardens***. This document will provide more guidance on planting and growing each crop, choosing varieties to grow, things to watch for, and ideas about learning opportunities related to the various plants.

For lesson plans and educational activities, check out ***School Garden Curricula and Lesson Plan Options***.

For tips on starting a garden and related resources, refer to ***Considerations and Resources for School Gardens in Kansas***.

How to Read the Garden Templates

Each template is 4 feet by 8 feet. Each foot is marked by a gridline. A colored block that fills a whole square width is expected to be 1 foot wide, with the planting line denoted in the center of the block – allowing about 6” on either side of the planting location. A colored block that fills half a square is expected to be 6” wide, with planting in the center. These are typically where seeds are planted. A circle or square with an “X” in the center will typically be where a single plant is transplanted. The plant will go on the “X,” with the space of the circle or square the expected mature size of the plant. The key at the bottom shows what plants are planned for each space.



How to Read the Planting Schedule Charts

Each template includes a Planting Schedule chart. This chart lists the ideal window when each type of plant should go into the garden. Bear in mind that every year is different from a weather standpoint, so a planting date that works well one year may not work as well in another year, especially at the extremes.

The planting type – either direct seeding in the garden or transplanting in the garden – is noted. In some cases, there may be special instructions for certain plants.

In the last column are some short variety notes. These notes are specific to the time of year and template, so may change from one chart to another. For more detailed information on variety selection for certain plants, refer to *Notes on Plant Choices for Kansas School Gardens*.

F-1 Planting Schedule and Information

Vegetable	Planting Range	Planting Type	Variety Notes
Lettuce	Mid-August to early September	Seeds directly in garden	Any leaf, romaine, or butterhead type.
Spring Radishes	Mid-August to mid-September	Seeds directly in garden	Any less than 35 days to maturity.

How to Read the Alternative Plants Charts

Each template includes a chart of alternative plants. These are plants that have similar growth habits, spacing needs, and planting times to the plant originally indicated on the garden template. If there is need to replace a particular plant with another option for whatever reason, this chart will help you determine which other plants you could consider.

In some cases, especially in the summer templates, there are few easy alternatives that have close characteristics to the original plant options. Alternatives may not need the exact same type of trellising or have slightly different planting dates. If you are unsure about a replacement plant, ask an experienced gardener for advice. Also refer to *Notes on Plant Choices for Kansas School Gardens* for more insight into certain types of plants.

F-1 Alternative Plants for the Garden Plan

Vegetable	Alternative Plants
Lettuce	spinach, Chinese cabbage, mesclun, mizuna, mustards, arugula, kale, Swiss chard, bok choy
Spring radishes	kohlrabi, salad turnips, purple top turnips, green onions (from sets), pansies (from purchased plants)

Spring Garden – Short Season

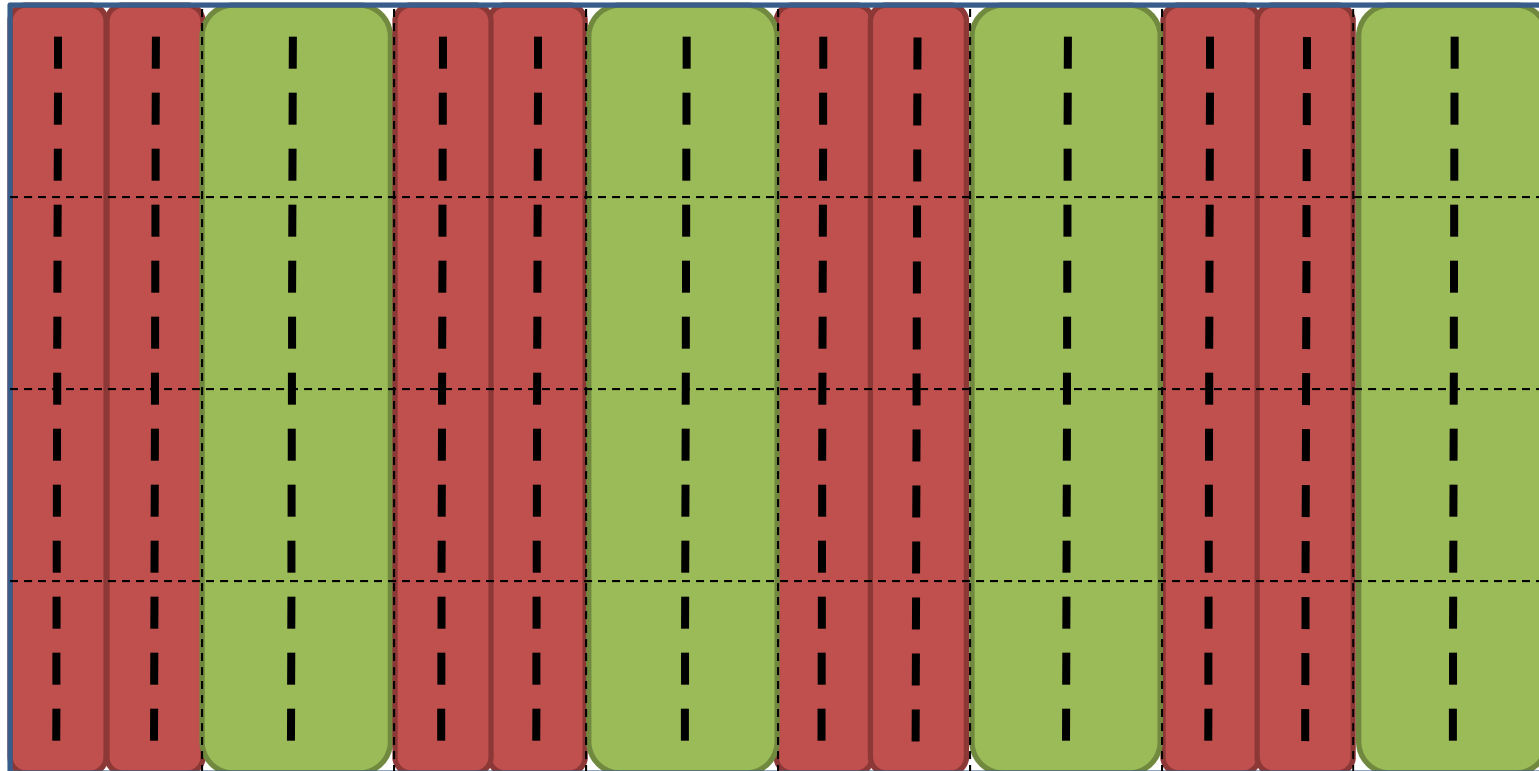
- Planted in mid- to late March, with harvest expected in mid- to late May, at the end of the school year.
- No pre-planting or preparation necessary.

Sp-1 Spring Garden – Short Season

Very simple planting plan.

Planted in mid- to late March, with harvest expected in early to mid-May, well before the end of the school year.

No pre-planting or preparation necessary.



Spring Radishes



Lettuce



Denotes planting location

Sp-1 Planting Schedule and Information

Vegetable	Planting Range	Planting Type	Variety Notes
Lettuce	Mid-to late March	Seeds directly in garden	Any leaf, romaine, or butterhead type.
Spring Radishes	Mid-to late March	Seeds directly in garden	Any variety - less than 35 days to maturity.

Sp-1 Alternative Plants for the Garden Plan

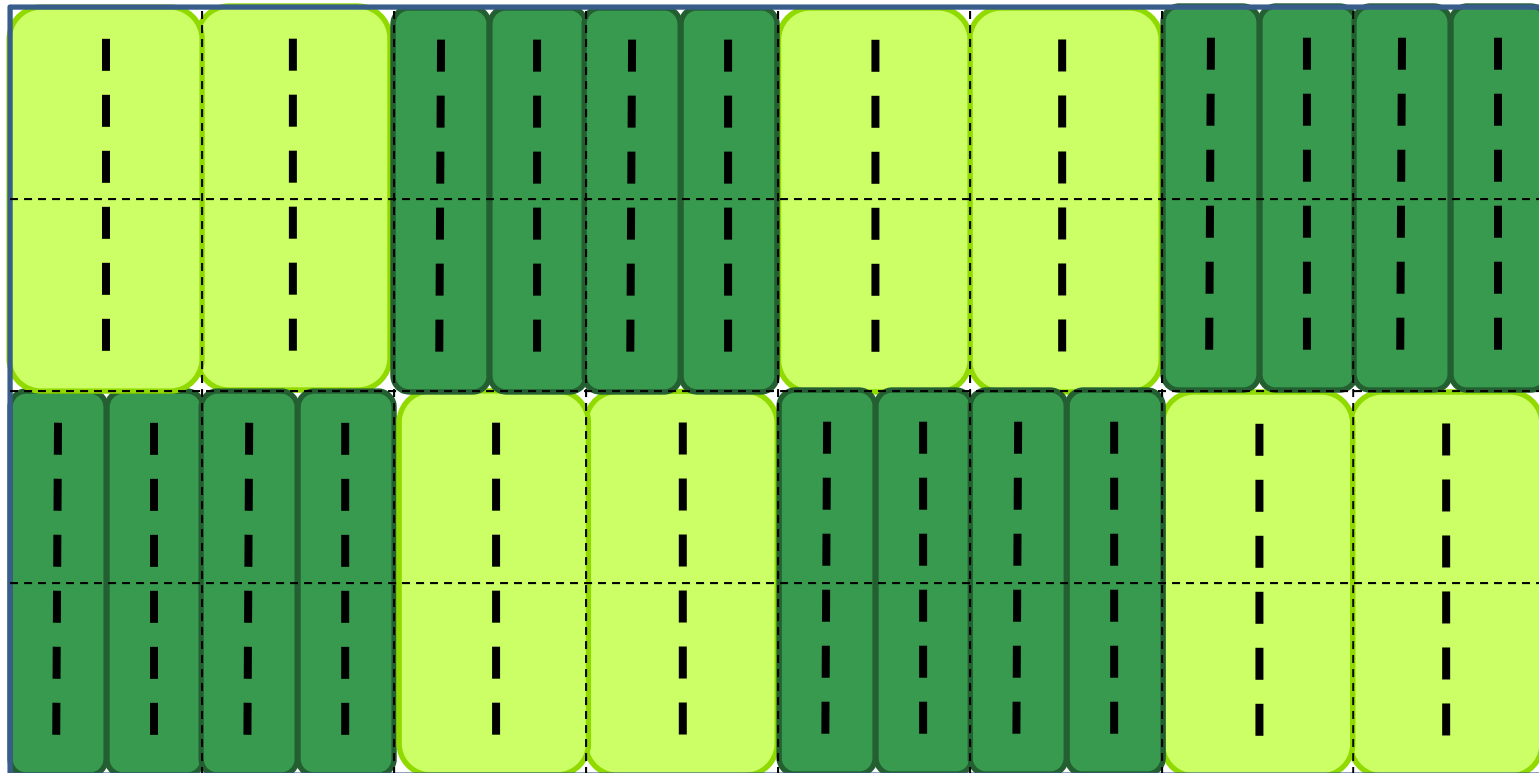
Vegetable	Alternative Plants
Lettuce	spinach, Chinese cabbage, mesclun, mizuna, mustards, arugula, kale, Swiss chard, bok choy
Spring radishes	kohlrabi, salad turnips, purple top turnips, green onions (from sets)


Sp-2 Spring Garden – Short Season

Very simple planting plan.

Planted in mid- to late March, with harvest expected in early to mid-May, well before the end of the school year.

No pre-planting or preparation necessary



 Green Onions (from onion sets)

 Spinach

 Denotes planting location

Sp-2 Planting Schedule and Information

Vegetable	Planting Range	Planting Type	Variety Notes
Spinach	Mid-to late March	Seeds directly in garden	Any variety.
Green onion	Mid-to late March	Plant sets directly in garden	Any available.

Sp-2 Alternative Plants for the Garden Plan

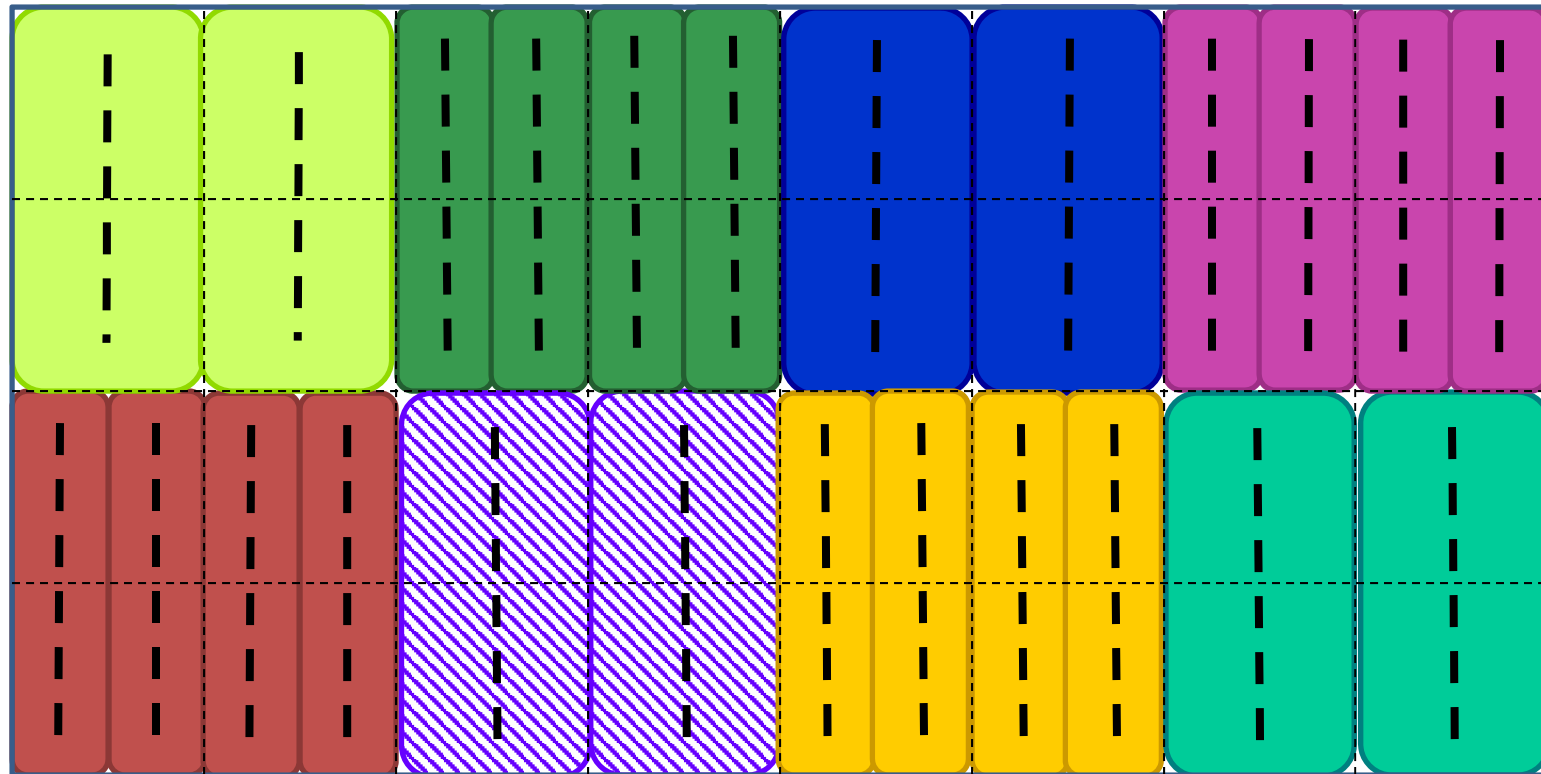
Vegetable	Alternative Plants
Spinach	lettuce, Chinese cabbage, mesclun, mizuna, mustards, arugula, kale, Swiss chard, bok choy
Green onion	kohlrabi, salad turnips, purple top turnips, spring radishes








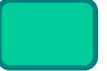

Sp-3 Spring Garden – Short Season

Simple planting plan.

Planted in mid- to late March, with harvest expected in mid- to late May, at the end of the school year, although some crops may not be fully mature.

No pre-planting or preparation necessary.



- | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|---|--------------|---|---------------|---|-------------|
|  | Spring Radishes |  | Green Onions |  | Salad Turnips |  | Kohlrabi |
|  | Spinach |  | Peas |  | Arugula |  | Swiss Chard |
|  Denotes planting location | | | | | | | |

Sp-3 Planting Schedule and Information

Vegetable	Planting Range	Planting Type	Variety Notes
Spinach	Mid- to late March	Seeds directly in garden	Any variety.
Spring Radishes	Mid- to late March	Seeds directly in garden	Any variety - less than 35 days to maturity.
Green Onions	Mid- to late March	Plant from sets directly in garden	Any variety of onion sets.
Peas	March	Seeds directly in garden	Any variety – less than 60 days to maturity preferable. Snow or sugar snap peas may be better choices.
Salad Turnips	Mid- to late March	Seeds directly in garden	Any variety.
Arugula	Mid- to late March	Seeds directly in garden	Any variety.
Kohlrabi	Mid- to late March	Seeds directly in garden	Any variety – less than 45 days to maturity is preferable.
Swiss Chard	Mid- to late March	Seeds directly in garden	Any variety.

Sp-3 Alternative Plants for the Garden Plan

Vegetable	Alternative Plants
Spinach	lettuce, Chinese cabbage, mesclun, mustards, mizuna, arugula, kale, Swiss chard, bok choy
Spring Radishes	kohlrabi, salad turnips, purple top turnips, green onions (from sets)
Green onions	kohlrabi, salad turnips, purple top turnips, spring radishes
Peas	No comparable substitutes. Leafy greens or root vegetables could be used instead.
Salad Turnips	kohlrabi, spring radishes, purple top turnips, green onions (from sets)
Arugula	lettuce, Chinese cabbage, mesclun, mustards, mizuna, spinach, kale, Swiss chard, bok choy
Kohlrabi	spring radishes, salad turnips, purple top turnips, green onions (from sets)
Swiss Chard	lettuce, Chinese cabbage, mesclun, mustards, mizuna, arugula, kale, spinach, bok choy

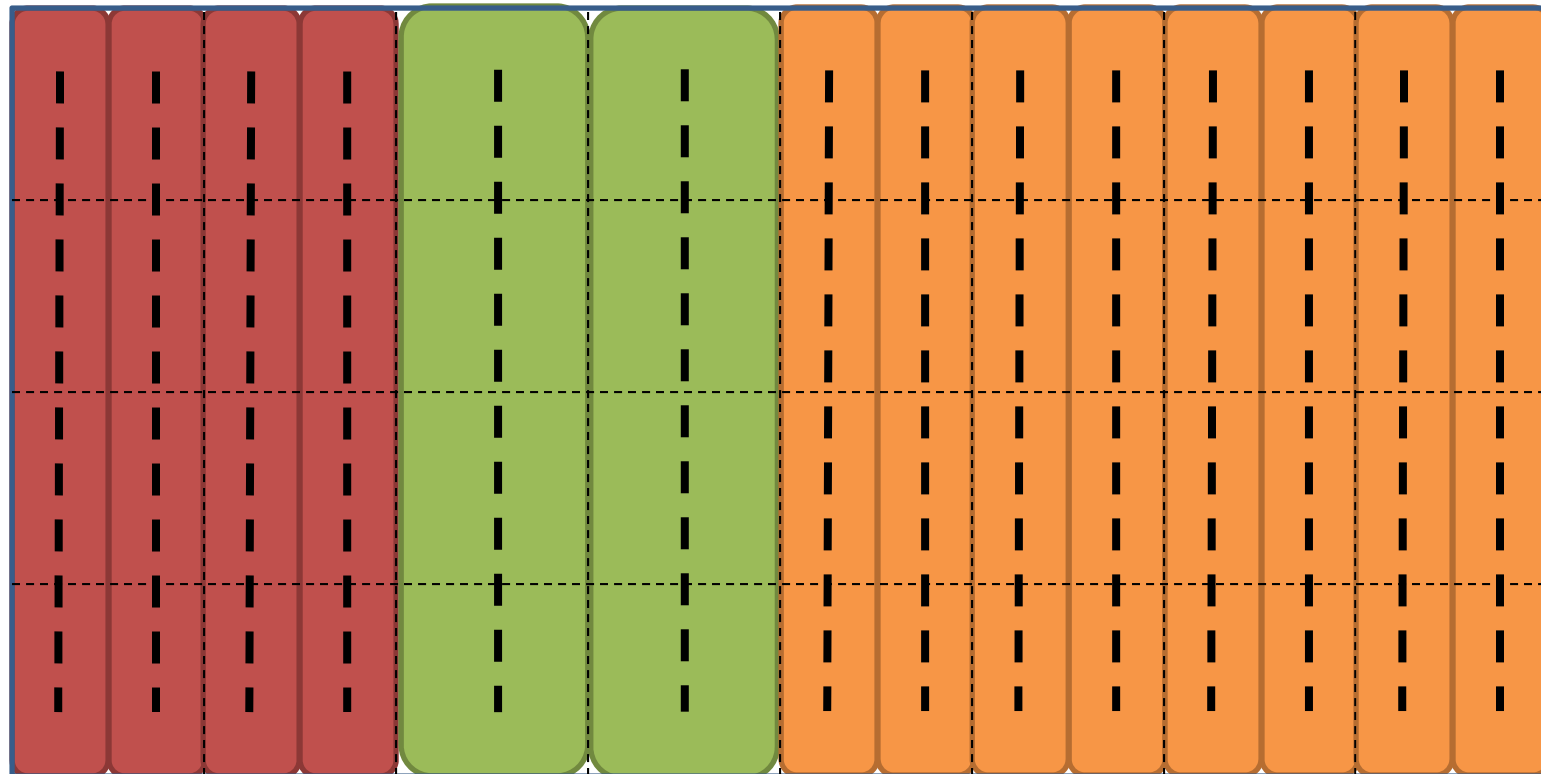
Spring Garden – Medium Season with Season Extension

- Planted in mid- to late March, with harvest expected in mid- to late May, at the end of the school year.
- Row covers used throughout spring to help warm soil and speed growth.

Sp-4 Spring Garden – Medium Season with Season Extension
Very simple planting plan.

Planted in mid- to late March, with harvest expected in mid- to late May, at the end of the school year.

Row covers used throughout spring to help warm soil and speed growth.



Spring Radishes



Carrots



Lettuce



Denotes planting location

Sp-4 Planting Schedule and Information

Vegetable	Planting Range	Planting Type	Variety Notes
Spinach	Mid- to late March	Seeds directly in garden	Any variety.
Spring Radishes	Mid- to late March	Seeds directly in garden	Any variety - less than 35 days to maturity.
Carrots	Mid- to late March	Seeds directly in garden	Any variety – less than 60 days to maturity preferable. Others likely will not reach full maturity by late May.

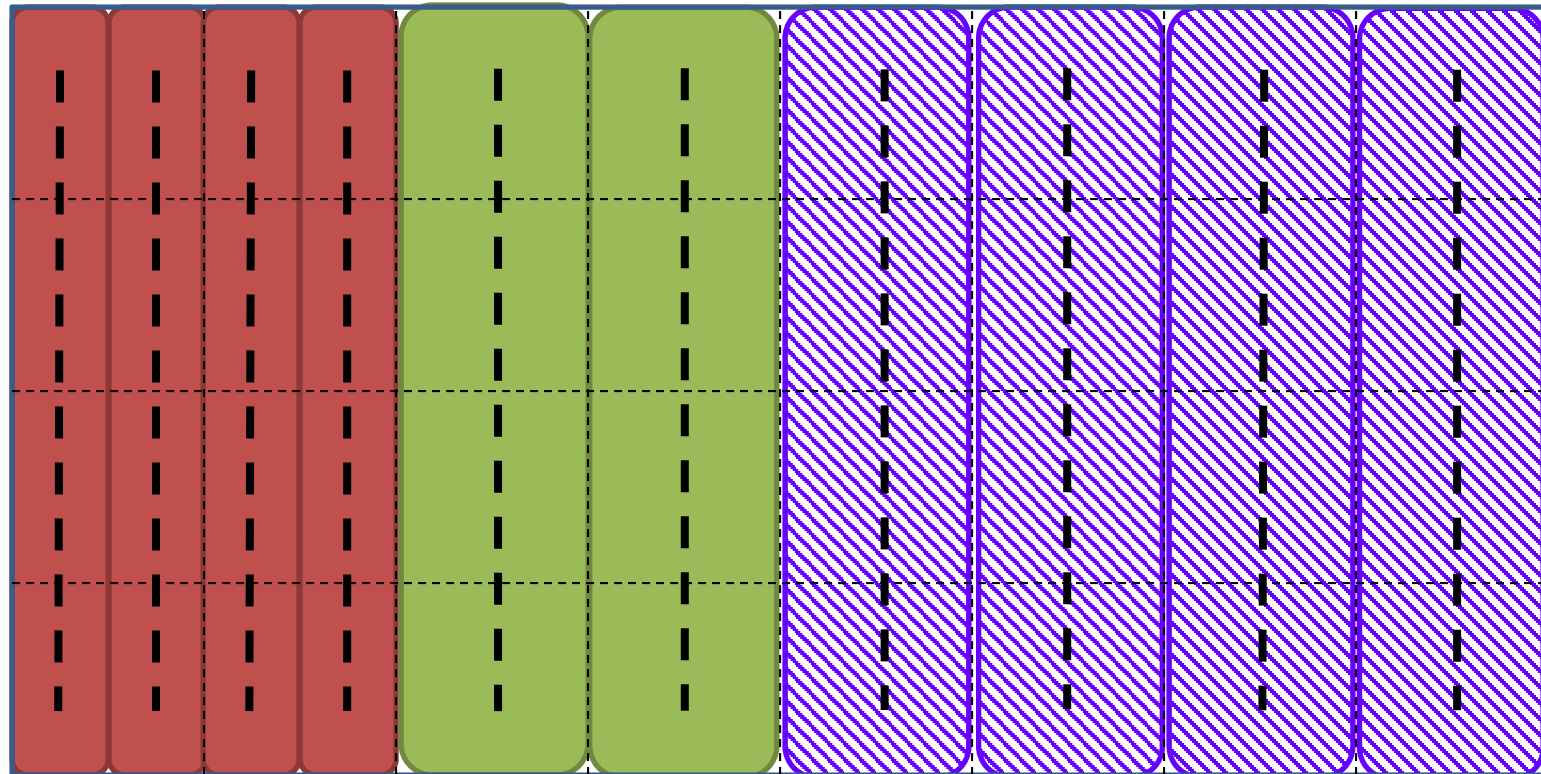
Sp-4 Alternative Plants for the Garden Plan





Vegetable	Alternative Plants
Spinach	lettuce, Chinese cabbage, mesclun, mustards, mizuna, arugula, kale, Swiss chard, bok choy
Spring radishes	kohlrabi, salad turnips, purple top turnips, green onions (from sets)
Carrots	kohlrabi, salad turnips, purple top turnips, spring radishes, bulbing fennel, fall radishes, beets

Sp-5 Spring Garden – Medium Season with Season Extension
Very simple planting plan.

Planted in mid- to late March, with harvest expected in mid- to late May, at the end of the school year.

Row covers could be used throughout spring to help warm soil and speed growth.



-  Spring Radishes
-  Lettuce
-  Peas
-  Denotes planting location

Sp-5 Planting Schedule and Information

Vegetable	Planting Range	Planting Type	Variety Notes
Lettuce	Mid- to late March	Seeds directly in garden	Any leaf, romaine, or butterhead type.
Spring Radishes	Mid- to late March	Seeds directly in garden	Any variety - less than 35 days to maturity.
Peas	Mid- to late March	Seeds directly in garden	Any variety – less than 60 days to maturity preferable. Snow or sugar snap peas may be better choices.

Sp-5 Alternative Plants for the Garden Plan

Vegetable	Alternative Plants
Lettuce	lettuce, Chinese cabbage, mesclun, mustards, mizuna, arugula, kale, Swiss chard, bok choy
Spring radishes	kohlrabi, salad turnips, purple top turnips, green onions (from sets), fall radishes, carrots, bulbing fennel, beets
Peas	No comparable substitutes. Leafy greens or root vegetables could be used instead.

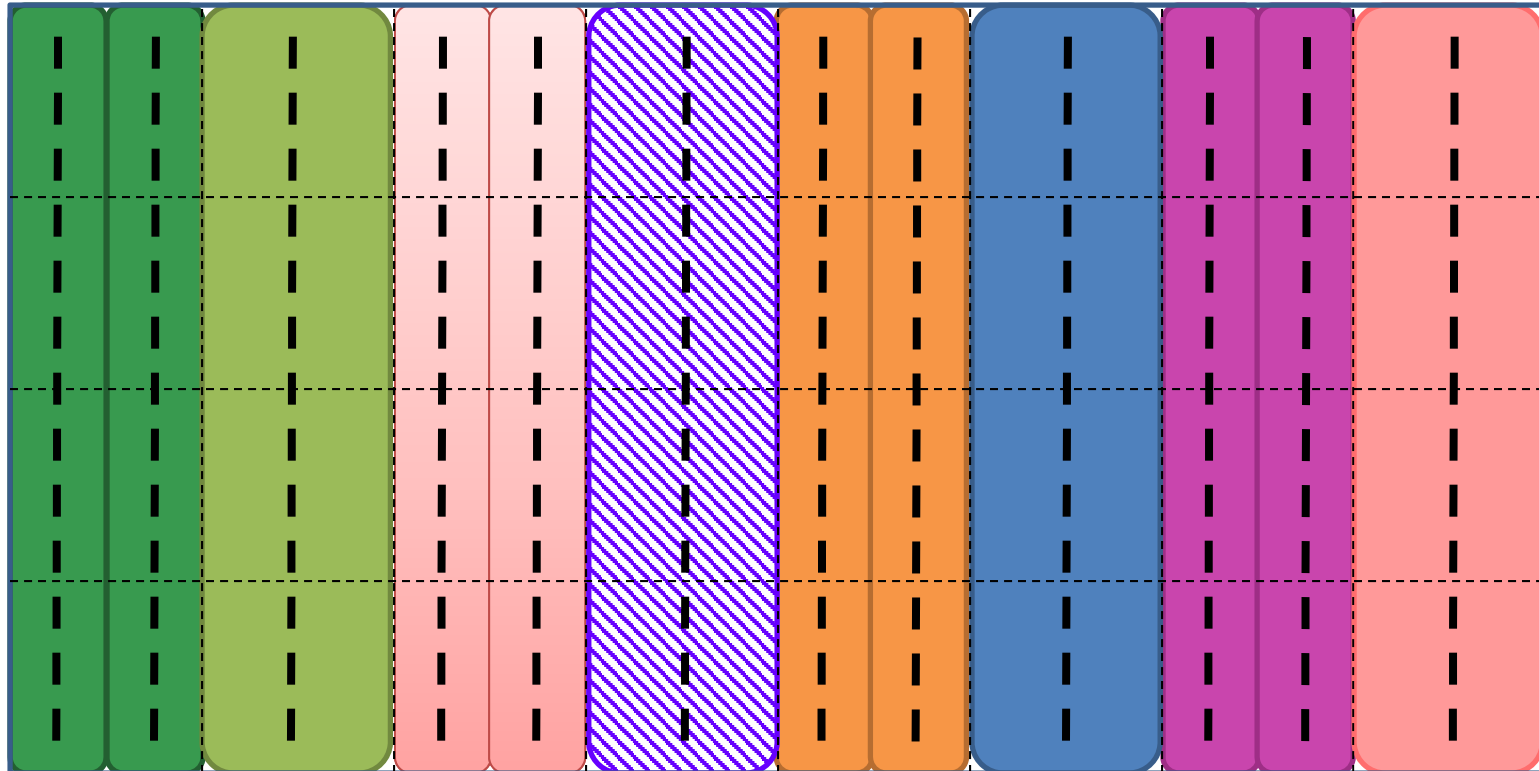
Sp-6










Spring Garden – Medium Season with Season Extension

Moderately simple planting plan.

Planted in mid- to late March, with harvest expected in mid- to late May, at the end of the school year.

Row covers could be used throughout spring to help warm soil and speed growth.



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|---|--|---|--|
|  Fall Radishes |  Green Onions |  Carrots |  Kohlrabi |
|  Lettuce |  Peas |  Mizuna |  Kale |
|  Denotes planting location | | | |

Sp-6 Planting Schedule and Information

Vegetable	Planting Range	Planting Type	Variety Notes
Lettuce	Mid- to late March	Seeds directly in garden	Any leaf, romaine, or butterhead type.
Fall Radishes	Mid- to late March	Seeds directly in garden	Any less than 45 days to maturity.
Green Onions	Mid- to late March	Plant from sets directly in garden	Any variety of onion sets.
Peas	March	Seeds directly in garden	Any variety – less than 60 days to maturity preferable. Snow or sugar snap peas may be better choices.
Carrots	Mid- to late March	Seeds directly in garden	Any variety – less than 60 days to maturity preferable. Others likely will not reach full maturity by late May.
Mizuna	Mid- to late March	Seeds directly in garden	Any variety.
Kohlrabi	Mid- to late March	Seeds directly in garden	Any variety – less than 45 days to maturity is preferable.
Kale	Mid- to late March	Seeds directly in garden	Any variety.

Sp-6 Alternative Plants for the Garden Plan

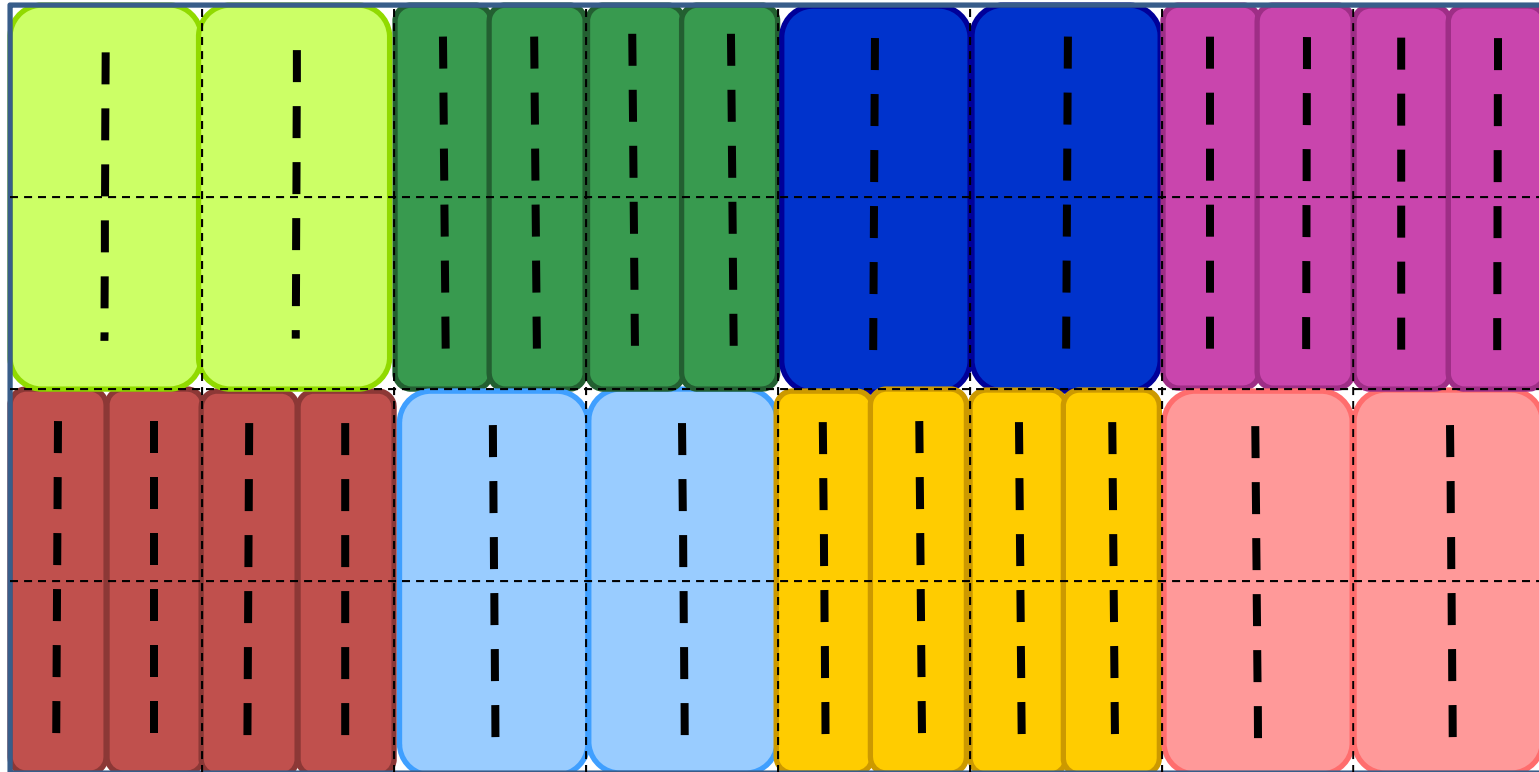
Vegetable	Alternative Plants
Lettuce	lettuce, Chinese cabbage, mesclun, mustards, mizuna, arugula, kale, Swiss chard, bok choy
Fall radishes	kohlrabi, salad turnips, purple top turnips, green onions (from sets)
Green onions	kohlrabi, salad turnips, purple top turnips, spring radishes (from sets)
Peas	No comparable substitutes. Leafy greens or root vegetables could be used instead.
Carrots	kohlrabi, spring radishes, purple top turnips, green onions (from sets)
Mizuna	lettuce, Chinese cabbage, mesclun, mustards, mizuna, spinach, kale, Swiss chard, bok choy
Kohlrabi	spring radishes, salad turnips, purple top turnips, green onions (from sets)
Kale	lettuce, Chinese cabbage, mesclun, mustards, mizuna, arugula, kale, spinach, bok choy






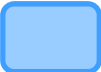

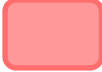

Sp-7 Spring Garden – Medium Season with Season Extension

Moderately simple planting plan.

Planted in mid- to late March, with harvest expected in mid- to late May, at the end of the school year.

Row covers could be used throughout spring to help warm soil and speed growth.



- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
|  Spring Radishes |  Green Onions |  Salad Turnips |  Kohlrabi |
|  Spinach |  Chinese Cabbage |  Arugula |  Kale |
|  Denotes planting location | | | |

Sp-7 Planting Schedule and Information

Vegetable	Planting Range	Planting Type	Variety Notes
Lettuce	Mid- to late March	Seeds directly in garden	Any leaf, romaine, or butterhead type.
Spring Radishes	Mid- to late March	Seeds directly in garden	Any variety - less than 35 days to maturity.
Green Onions	Mid- to late March	Plant from sets directly in garden	Any variety of onion sets.
Chinese Cabbage	March	Seeds directly in garden	Any variety – less than 50 days to maturity is preferable. Heading types may not reach full size.
Salad Turnips	Mid- to late March	Seeds directly in garden	Any variety.
Arugula	Mid- to late March	Seeds directly in garden	Any variety.
Kohlrabi	Mid- to late March	Seeds directly in garden	Any variety – less than 45 days to maturity is preferable.
Kale	Mid- to late March	Seeds directly in garden	Any variety.

Sp-7 Alternative Plants for the Garden Plan

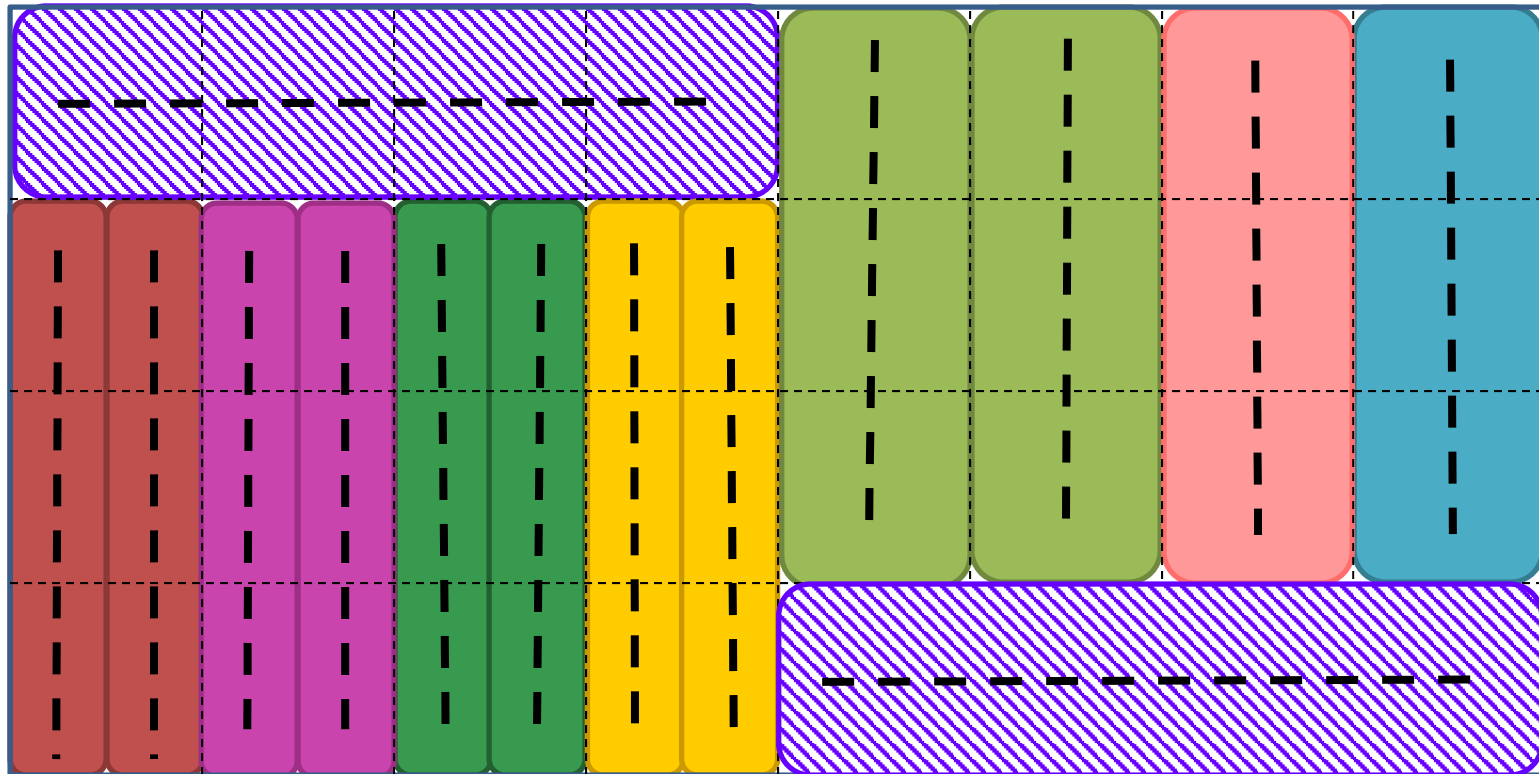
Vegetable	Alternative Plants
Lettuce	spinach, Chinese cabbage, mesclun, mustards, mizuna, arugula, kale, Swiss chard, bok choy
Spring Radishes	kohlrabi, salad turnips, purple top turnips, green onions (from sets)
Green Onions	kohlrabi, salad turnips, purple top turnips, spring radishes (from sets)
Chinese Cabbage	lettuce, spinach, mesclun, mustards, mizuna, arugula, kale, Swiss chard, bok choy
Salad Turnips	kohlrabi, spring radishes, purple top turnips, green onions (from sets)
Arugula	lettuce, Chinese cabbage, mesclun, mustards, mizuna, spinach, kale, Swiss chard, bok choy
Kohlrabi	spring radishes, salad turnips, purple top turnips, green onions (from sets)
Kale	lettuce, Chinese cabbage, mesclun, mustards, mizuna, arugula, kale, spinach, bok choy








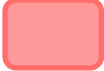
Sp-8 Spring Garden – Medium Season with Season Extension

Moderately simple planting plan.

Planted in mid- to late March, with harvest expected in mid- to late May, at the end of the school year.

Row covers could be used throughout spring to help warm soil and speed growth.



- | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|---|--------------|---|---------------|---|----------|
|  | Spring Radishes |  | Green Onions |  | Salad Turnips |  | Kohlrabi |
|  | Lettuce |  | Bok Choy |  | Peas |  | Kale |
| <p>— — — — — Denotes planting location</p> | | | | | | | |

Sp-8 Planting Schedule and Information

Vegetable	Planting Range	Planting Type	Variety Notes
Lettuce	Mid- to late March	Seeds directly in garden	Any leaf, romaine, or butterhead type.
Spring Radishes	Mid- to late March	Seeds directly in garden	Any variety - less than 35 days to maturity.
Green Onions	Mid- to late March	Plant from sets directly in garden	Any variety of onion sets.
Peas	March	Seeds directly in garden	Any variety – less than 60 days to maturity preferable. Snow or sugar snap peas may be better choices.
Salad Turnips	Mid- to late March	Seeds directly in garden	Any variety.
Bok Choy	Mid- to late March	Seeds directly in garden	Any variety – less than 45 days to maturity is preferable.
Kohlrabi	Mid- to late March	Seeds directly in garden	Any variety – less than 45 days to maturity is preferable.
Kale	Mid- to late March	Seeds directly in garden	Any variety.

Sp-8 Alternative Plants for the Garden Plan

Vegetable	Alternative Plants
Lettuce	lettuce, Chinese cabbage, mesclun, mustards, mizuna, arugula, kale, Swiss chard, bok choy
Spring radishes	kohlrabi, salad turnips, purple top turnips, green onions (from sets)
Green onions	kohlrabi, salad turnips, purple top turnips, spring radishes (from sets)
Peas	No comparable substitutes. Leafy greens or root vegetables could be used instead.
Salad Turnips	kohlrabi, spring radishes, purple top turnips, green onions (from sets)
Bok Choy	lettuce, Chinese cabbage, mesclun, mustards, mizuna, spinach, kale, Swiss chard, bok choy
Kohlrabi	spring radishes, salad turnips, purple top turnips, green onions (from sets)
Kale	lettuce, Chinese cabbage, mesclun, mustards, mizuna, arugula, kale, spinach, bok choy

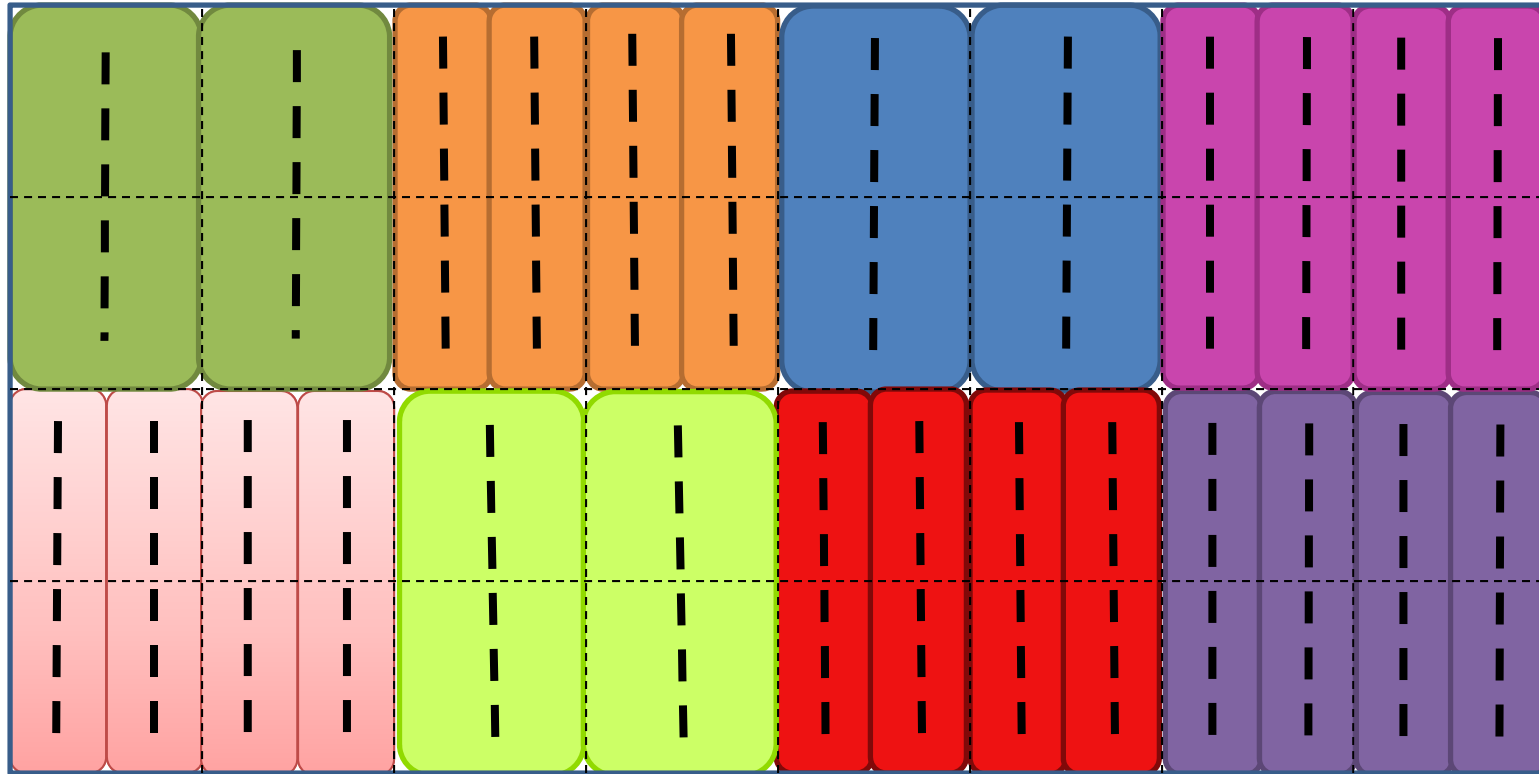
Sp-9

Spring Garden – Medium Season with Season Extension

Moderately simple planting plan.

Planted in mid- to late March, with harvest expected in mid- to late May, at the end of the school year.

Row covers could be used throughout spring to help warm soil and speed growth.



Fall Radishes

Carrots

Beets

Kohlrabi

Lettuce

Spinach

Mizuna

Bulbing Fennel

— — Denotes planting location

Sp-9 Planting Schedule and Information

Vegetable	Planting Range	Planting Type	Variety Notes
Lettuce	Mid- to late March	Seeds directly in garden	Any leaf, romaine, or butterhead type.
Fall Radishes	Mid- to late March	Seeds directly in garden	Any less than 45 days to maturity.
Carrots	Mid- to late March	Seeds directly in garden	Any variety – less than 60 days to maturity preferable. <i>Others may not reach full maturity by late May.</i>
Spinach	Mid- to late March	Seeds directly in garden	Any variety.
Beets	Mid- to late March	Seeds directly in garden	Any variety – less than 55 days to maturity is preferable. <i>Others may not reach full size.</i>
Mizuna	Mid- to late March	Seeds directly in garden	Any variety.
Kohlrabi	Mid- to late March	Seeds directly in garden	Any variety – less than 45 days to maturity is preferable.
Bulbing Fennel	Mid- to late March	Seeds directly in garden	Any variety.

Sp-9 Alternative Plants for the Garden Plan

Vegetable	Alternative Plants
Lettuce	spinach, Chinese cabbage, mesclun, mustards, mizuna, arugula, kale, Swiss chard, bok choy
Fall radishes	kohlrabi, salad turnips, purple top turnips, green onions (from sets)
Carrots	kohlrabi, salad turnips, purple top turnips, spring radishes (from sets)
Spinach	lettuce, Chinese cabbage, mesclun, mustards, mizuna, arugula, kale, Swiss chard, bok choy
Beets	kohlrabi, spring radishes, purple top turnips, green onions (from sets)
Mizuna	lettuce, Chinese cabbage, mesclun, mustards, mizuna, spinach, kale, Swiss chard, bok choy
Kohlrabi	spring radishes, salad turnips, purple top turnips, green onions (from sets)
Bulbing Fennel	kohlrabi, salad turnips, purple top turnips, green onions (from sets)

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