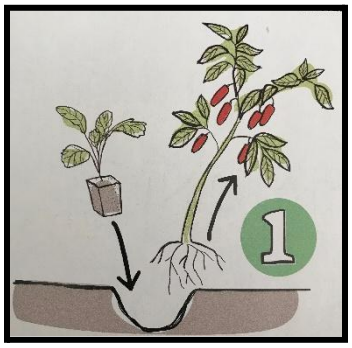
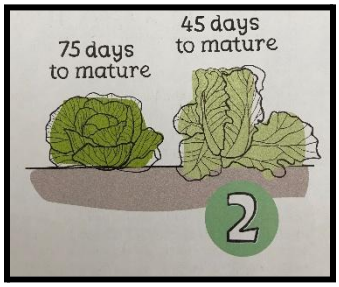
Succession Planting – What is it & How to do it *Success*fully

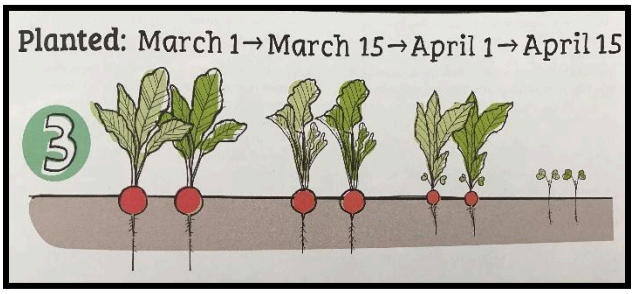
Succession planting means planting crops a small amount at a time to obtain a continuous harvest.
There are several different styles of succession planting.



1. **Seasonal replacement** planting is the most common.
   a. Plant cool season crops like lettuces, kales and peas, in early spring. These vegetables tolerate a light frost and will mature and be harvested before the temperatures begin to heat up.
   b. Plant warm season crops like tomatoes, peppers and beans for the warm summer months.
   c. Once the bulk of the warm season crops are harvested and cool weather begins to prevail, replant with cool season vegetables.

2. **Relay planting** means planting the same crop but choosing different varieties that have different 'days to maturity' rates.
   a. Plant all the varieties at the same time.
   b. As an example, some tomatoes mature in just 50 days, while others need 70-100 days.





3. **Interval planting** means replanting the same crop at staggered intervals, for example, sow seeds every one to two weeks.

   a. This method creates a steady harvest.
   b. Select cultivars that have a shorter 'days to maturity' timeline that allows for more planting cycles.

4. **Intercropping or companion planting** means planting crops side by side that have complementary growth habits.
   a. This method involves planting a quick-growing crop with a slower one. The quick one gets harvested before the slower one matures.
   b. Examples include radishes and carrots; dill and summer squash; beets and pumpkin; and lettuce and cabbage.

Steps to get started.

1. Determine the expected first and last frost dates. *The expected last frost date for spring in southeastern Michigan is April 30. The expected first frost date for fall is October 22.*
2. Make a list of the desired vegetables to be planted.
3. Note the days to maturity of each.
4. Choose which type of succession planting is best suited for your garden space.

Ready to plant

1. Create a weed free garden area and amend the soil with a good quality compost.
2. Assess compass directions; north, south, east and west.
3. Plant shorter vegetables on the west side of the garden. Plant vegetables that get taller on the east side of the garden, so they won't cast afternoon shade on the shorter sun-loving vegetable plants.
4. Some plants may enjoy a thin layer of straw mulch to control weeds and maintain moisture. A straw layer also prevents soil from splashing on the leaves during rainstorms.
5. Visit often to assess the garden's needs.
    a. water and weeding needs
    b. pruning and staking needs
    c. critter control needs
    d. catching the perfect harvest moment

2025 GPGC Victory Garden Plan

1. Because this plot is relatively small, we have chosen the seasonal replacement method of succession planting.
2. Also, because space is limited, we will utilize plants that stay compact. I. E. we will not be growing pumpkins and watermelon!
3. We will be using pruning techniques and creative staking methods as well as vertical gardening to maximize the space available.
4. We will choose vegetables that tend to produce a higher quantity. For example, Cherry and Grape tomato varieties tend to produce more frequent and higher yields.

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Based on the Old Farmer's Almanac, these are the spring and fall planting dates for the Grosse Pointes

Vegetable crop	**Spring/summer planting dates**		**Fall planting dates**	**Days to maturity**
	Sow seeds	**Plant seedlings**	**Plant seedlings**	
Basil	5/14 – 5/28	5/14 – 5/28		
Beets	4/2 – 4/9	4/16 – 4/30	7/25 – 8/22	50
Broccoli	4/2 – 4/9	4/16 – 4/30	8/8 – 8/22	60
Carrots	4/2 – 4/16			50-80
Cucumbers	5/14 – 5/21	5/14 – 5/21		50-70
Lettuce	4/9 – 4/16	4/9 – 4/16	8/8 – 8/22	30-60
Peas	4/9 – 4/16			60-70
Peppers		5/14 – 5/21		60-90
Radishes	4/2 – 4/9			30-45
Spinach	4/2 – 4/9	4/9 – 4/12	8/29 – 9/19	30
Tomatoes		5/14 – 5/21		variable

Disclaimer: Different cultivars may have different 'days to maturity.' Always read the plant tags/labels for the most accurate information.

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