



Your SowGreat Plan

Prepared for gardener@example.com • Generated September 2, 2026

Your Garden Profile

Location:	Portland, OR	USDA Zone:	Zone 8b
Garden Size:	Medium (100-300 Sq Ft)	Garden Type:	Raised Beds
Experience:	Beginner	Sunlight:	Full Sun (6+ Hours)
Growing:	Mix Of Everything	Seedlings:	Start From Seed When Possible
Water Access:	Garden Hose	Soil Type:	Loamy

Recommended Plants

Vegetables

- **Garlic 'Inchelium Red'**
– Easy to plant in fall for an effortless harvest next summer.
- **Kale 'Lacinato'** – Thrives in cool Pacific Northwest autumns and tolerates light frost easily.
- **Radish 'French Breakfast'** – Matures in under a month from seed, perfect for quick beginner success.
- **Spinach 'Bloomsdale'**
– Fast-growing cool-weather green that thrives from direct seed in September.

Herbs

- **Chives 'Common'** – Hardy perennial herb that establishes readily from seed in raised beds.
- **Cilantro 'Santo'** – Loves cool fall temperatures and resists bolting when planted from seed.
- **Parsley 'Italian Dark Green'** – Cold-tolerant biennial that produces fresh savory leaves through winter.

Flowers

- **Pansy 'Delta Blue'** – Provides vibrant cool-season color that overwinters reliably in Zone 8b.
- **Snapdragon 'Rocket Mix'** – Cold-hardy bloomer that adds height and bright blooms to fall beds.
- **Sweet Alyssum 'Carpet of Snow'** – Easy fragrant groundcover that attracts beneficial insects all autumn long.

Seasonal Planting Schedule

	Sep				Oct				Nov			
Week of	9/6	9/13	9/20	9/27	10/4	10/11	10/18	10/25	11/1	11/8	11/15	11/22
Vegetables												
Garlic							4					
Kale	4											
Radish		4				4						
Spinach		4			4							
Herbs												
Chives		4										
Cilantro		4				4						
Parsley	1					3						
Flowers												
Pansy	1						3					
Snapdragon		1						3				
Sweet Alyssum		4										

	Dec				Jan				Feb			
Week of	12/6	12/13	12/20	12/27	1/4	1/11	1/18	1/25	2/1	2/8	2/15	2/22
Vegetables												
Garlic												
Kale												
Radish												
Spinach												
Herbs												
Chives												
Cilantro												
Parsley												
Flowers												
Pansy												
Snapdragon												

	Dec				Jan				Feb			
Week of	12/6	12/13	12/20	12/27	1/4	1/11	1/18	1/25	2/1	2/8	2/15	2/22
Sweet Alyssum												

- 1 **Start Seeds Indoors** – Plant seeds in small pots or trays inside your home to give them a head start before the weather is warm enough outside.
- 2 **Buy Seedlings** – Pick up young plants from a garden center. They're ready to go in the ground after a few days of adjusting to outdoor conditions.
- 3 **Transplant Outside** – Move your indoor seedlings or purchased plants into the garden. Wait until after the last frost for tender plants.
- 4 **Direct Sow** – Plant seeds straight into the garden soil. Best for plants that don't like being moved, or fast growers like lettuce and radish.

Watering Guide

Raised beds drain rapidly in full sun, requiring regular monitoring with a garden hose to maintain consistent soil moisture. Water deeply at the soil base in the morning to encourage deep root establishment and minimize leaf disease. In cool autumn weather across Zone 8b, adjust watering frequency downward as natural rainfall increases.

Vegetables	
Garlic	Water deeply once every 7 to 10 days until cloves establish, ensuring beds remain moist but never waterlogged.
Kale	Provide 1 to 1.5 inches of water per week, keeping the soil evenly moist to prevent leaves from turning bitter.
Radish	Supply 1 inch of water weekly at a steady rate to keep roots tender and prevent splitting.
Spinach	Apply 1 inch of water weekly with shallow, frequent hose soakings so the surface roots never dry out completely.
Herbs	
Chives	Water thoroughly once or twice a week when the top inch of soil feels dry to the touch.
Cilantro	Give about 1 inch of water per week, allowing the top half-inch of soil to dry slightly between sessions.
Parsley	Provide 1 to 2 inches of water each week, soaking deeply around the root zone without wetting the foliage.
Flowers	
Pansy	Deliver 1 inch of water weekly, soaking the root ball whenever the surface soil begins to feel dry.
Snapdragon	Apply 1 inch of water per week at soil level, allowing the top inch of soil to dry out between waterings.
Sweet Alyssum	Water lightly 1 to 2 times weekly, keeping the bed moist until established and tapering as weather cools.

Soil Prep Recommendations

Before autumn planting in Zone 8b, refresh your raised beds by incorporating a 2-inch layer of rich, well-rotted compost into the loamy soil. Loamy soil drains well naturally, but raised beds benefit from replenished organic matter to support vigorous root growth through the cool season. Aim for a balanced soil pH between 6.0 and 7.0 for optimal nutrient availability across your fall crops.

Vegetables	
Garlic	Demands loose, deeply dug soil enriched with balanced compost and bone meal to support overwintering bulb development.
Kale	Thrives in rich, high-nitrogen soil amended with compost and prefers a pH between 6.0 and 7.5.
Radish	Requires loose, well-tilled soil free of fresh manure or excess nitrogen to prevent misshapen roots.
Spinach	Needs nutrient-rich, well-draining soil with a neutral pH of 6.5 to 7.0 to prevent nutrient lockup.
Herbs	
Chives	Grows best in moist, fertile soil enriched with organic matter and a slightly acidic to neutral pH.
Cilantro	Prefers moderately fertile, well-draining soil with a pH between 6.2 and 6.8 to encourage tender foliage.
Parsley	Requires deeply loosened, moisture-retentive soil rich in organic material with a pH of 6.0 to 7.0.
Flowers	
Pansy	Prefers porous, moisture-retentive raised bed soil amended with compost and an acidic pH between 5.4 and 5.8.
Snapdragon	Benefits from a fertile, compost-amended soil mix with a neutral pH of 6.2 to 7.0 and good drainage.
Sweet Alyssum	Adapts easily to average soil as long as it is loose, well-aerated, and drains excess moisture quickly.

Weekly Care Guide

Spend 20 to 30 minutes each week tending your raised beds to keep cool-season crops vigorous and productive. Regularly remove weeds around shallow roots and thin newly germinated seedlings to their proper spacing. Apply a light layer of clean straw mulch to protect root zones as autumn temperatures drop.

Vegetables	
Garlic	Keep the planting area completely weed-free by hand weeding gently to avoid disturbing developing root systems.
Kale	Strip away yellowing lower leaves weekly to promote upward growth and encourage continuous new foliage.
Radish	Thin seedlings promptly to 2 inches apart once true leaves appear so roots can swell properly.
Spinach	Thin young seedlings to 4 to 6 inches apart within two weeks of emergence to prevent overcrowding.
Herbs	
Chives	Snip back outer foliage to within 2 inches of the soil level every few weeks to encourage fresh growth.
Cilantro	Pinch off center flower stems as soon as they emerge to prolong leaf production.
Parsley	Trim away any faded or damaged outer stems at the base to keep the crown vigorous.
Flowers	
Pansy	Deadhead spent flowers including the stems weekly to stimulate continuous blooming through the cool months.
Snapdragon	Pinch the main stem tip when young to promote branching, and stake tall flower spikes before autumn winds.
Sweet Alyssum	Shear back faded flower clusters by one-third in mid-season to encourage dense, fresh blossoms.

Companion Planting Guide

	kale	Spinach	Radish	Garlic	Cilantro	Chives	Parsley	Pansy	Sweet Aly.	Snapdragon
Vegetables										
Garlic	2	5	7							
Kale			4	2	3				1	
Radish	4			7						
Spinach				5					6	
Herbs										
Chives							8			
Cilantro	3						9			
Parsley					9	8				
Flowers										
Pansy										10
Snapdragon								10		
Sweet Alyssum	1	6								

- 1 **Kale + Sweet Alyssum** – *Plant together.* Sweet alyssum attracts hoverflies that voraciously consume aphids on kale.
- 2 **Kale + Garlic** – *Plant together.* Pungent garlic scents deter cabbage loopers and aphids from kale leaves.
- 3 **Kale + Cilantro** – *Plant together.* Cilantro flowers attract beneficial predatory wasps that feed on caterpillars.
- 4 **Kale + Radish** – *Keep apart.* Both belong to the cabbage family and share destructive pests like flea beetles.
- 5 **Spinach + Garlic** – *Plant together.* Garlic naturally repels aphids and spider mites from tender spinach leaves.
- 6 **Spinach + Sweet Alyssum** – *Plant together.* Alyssum acts as a living mulch to cool the soil around spinach.
- 7 **Garlic + Radish** – *Keep apart.* Garlic can stunt the root growth and bulb development of radishes nearby.
- 8 **Chives + Parsley** – *Keep apart.* Chives can compete heavily for shallow nutrients and suppress parsley growth.
- 9 **Parsley + Cilantro** – *Keep apart.* Both share similar fungal blights and attract carrot rust flies.
- 10 **Pansy + Snapdragon** – *Plant together.* Both thrive in cool weather and together draw early season pollinators.