



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
Garden Goals:	Fresh Food, Relaxation	Budget:	Under \$100

Recommended Plants

Vegetables

- **Garlic 'Inchelium Red'**
– Easy fall-planted crop well suited for Pacific Northwest raised beds.
- **Kale 'Lacinato'** – Hardy cool-season green that tolerates frost and yields sweet fall harvests.
- **Radish 'French Breakfast'** – Fast growing root vegetable ready to harvest four weeks from seed.
- **Spinach 'Bloomsdale Long Standing'** – Thrives in cool fall weather and overwinters reliably in Zone 8b.

Herbs

- **Chives 'Common'** – Dependable perennial herb that establishes quickly from seed in raised beds.
- **Cilantro 'Santo'** – Thrives in autumn temperatures and resists bolting when sown in September.
- **Parsley 'Italian Dark Green'** – Cold-tolerant biennial herb providing fresh harvests throughout Pacific Northwest winters.

Flowers

- **Calendula 'Pacific Beauty'** – Hardy edible flower providing late-season color and pest-repelling benefits.
- **Pansy 'Delta Pure Yellow'** – Reliable cool-weather blooms that brighten fall and winter garden beds.
- **Sweet Alyssum 'Carpet of Snow'** – Frost-tolerant pollinator favorite that sprouts quickly from seed in autumn.

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												
Calendula		4										
Pansy	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												
Calendula												
Pansy												

	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

In your Portland Zone 8b raised beds, water in the morning using your garden hose with a gentle spray wand to minimize evaporation and disease. Raised beds drain quickly, so aim to deliver 1 to 1.5 inches of water weekly when fall rains are intermittent. Check the top two inches of soil with your finger before watering to ensure moisture levels remain steady.

Vegetables	
Garlic	Apply 1 inch of water per week while green shoots establish, avoiding soggy conditions that cause clove rot.
Kale	Supply 1 to 1.5 inches of water weekly, soaking the root zone directly to foster tender foliage.
Radish	Maintain steady moisture with 1 inch per week to ensure rapid, crisp growth without root splitting.
Spinach	Provide 1 to 1.5 inches per week, keeping soil consistently moist to prevent stress and bitter leaves.
Herbs	
Chives	Deliver 1 inch of water per week, allowing the top inch of soil to dry out between soakings.
Cilantro	Water with 1 inch per week to keep the upper soil moist and discourage premature flowering.
Parsley	Provide 1 to 1.5 inches weekly to keep the deep taproot evenly hydrated throughout the season.
Flowers	
Calendula	Water 1 inch weekly at the base, letting the top two inches dry out to encourage robust flowering.
Pansy	Give 1 inch of water weekly at soil level to keep roots damp while preventing foliar mildew.
Sweet Alyssum	Provide 1 inch per week using a soft spray, allowing surface soil to dry slightly between waterings.

Soil Prep Recommendations

Loamy soil in raised beds provides excellent natural drainage and aeration for fall plantings in Zone 8b. Incorporate 2 to 3 inches of finished compost into the top layer to restore nutrients before sowing cool-season varieties. Maintain a soil pH between 6.0 and 7.0 to ensure optimal nutrient availability for both vegetables and flowers.

Vegetables	
Garlic	Requires loose, fertile soil enriched with compost and excellent drainage to encourage large cloves and prevent rot.
Kale	Thrives in loamy soil generously amended with nitrogen-rich compost and a balanced pH between 6.0 and 7.5.
Radish	Needs loose, stone-free loamy soil with modest nitrogen levels to foster uniform root expansion.
Spinach	Prefers rich, well-draining soil with a neutral pH of 6.5 to 7.0, as it is very sensitive to overly acidic conditions.
Herbs	
Chives	Prefers rich, well-draining loamy soil with plenty of organic matter and an optimal pH range of 6.0 to 7.0.
Cilantro	Grows best in loose, well-drained loam amended with organic matter to support quick autumn taproot development.
Parsley	Demands deep, moisture-retentive, humus-rich soil with a pH between 6.0 and 7.0 for vigorous leaf growth.
Flowers	
Calendula	Tolerates average soils but blooms best in well-drained loam with moderate organic matter and a neutral pH.
Pansy	Thrives in moist, porous soil with high organic matter and a slightly acidic pH between 5.5 and 6.2.
Sweet Alyssum	Adapts well to average loamy soil as long as drainage is sharp, requiring minimal supplemental fertilizer.

Weekly Care Guide

Spend twenty to thirty minutes each week tending your raised beds by weeding gently around shallow roots and removing damaged foliage. Apply an organic balanced fertilizer once a month to support vigorous leafy growth through the autumn months. Thin seedlings promptly to ensure plants have adequate room and airflow as cool weather settles in.

Vegetables	
Garlic	Keep the bed completely weed-free by hand-pulling invaders weekly so bulbs do not face nutrient competition.
Kale	Snap off the lowest, older leaves each week to direct plant energy into tender central growth.
Radish	Thin emerging sprouts to two inches apart during week two so roots can expand without crowding.
Spinach	Thin young seedlings to four inches apart and remove any yellowing lower leaves weekly to promote airflow.
Herbs	
Chives	Snip tips regularly to encourage fresh growth and promptly remove any fading flower buds.
Cilantro	Pinch back central stem growth every week to delay flowering and encourage bushier leaf production.
Parsley	Trim away yellowing outer stems at the soil level weekly to maintain vigorous vegetative growth.
Flowers	
Calendula	Deadhead fading blossoms weekly to prevent seed formation and promote prolonged autumn flowering.
Pansy	Pinch off spent blooms and seed capsules weekly down to the main stem to stimulate continuous flowering.
Sweet Alyssum	Shear back faded flower clusters lightly every few weeks to keep plants compact and blooming.

Companion Planting Guide

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

- 1 **Kale + Garlic** – *Plant together.* Garlic repels aphids and cabbage worms that commonly plague tender kale.
- 2 **Kale + Sweet Alyssum** – *Plant together.* Sweet alyssum attracts beneficial hoverflies and predatory wasps that eat kale pests.
- 3 **Kale + Radish** – *Keep apart.* Both are brassicas that share common pests like flea beetles and cabbage root maggots.
- 4 **Spinach + Radish** – *Plant together.* Radishes draw flea beetles and leafminers away from delicate spinach leaves.
- 5 **Garlic + Parsley** – *Keep apart.* Garlic can stunt the growth and vigor of parsley when planted in close proximity.
- 6 **Chives + Parsley** – *Keep apart.* Alliums like chives can inhibit the delicate root development of parsley.
- 7 **Garlic + Cilantro** – *Keep apart.* Strong sulfur compounds from garlic may stunt cilantro seedling growth.
- 8 **Spinach + Garlic** – *Plant together.* Garlic scent masks spinach from aphids and other destructive soft-bodied insects.
- 9 **Kale + Calendula** – *Plant together.* Calendula acts as a trap crop and attracts pollinators that benefit the garden.

Pest & Disease Protection

Monitor your autumn raised beds weekly for early pest arrivals like slugs and aphids common in the Pacific Northwest. Use lightweight floating row covers over cool-season greens to create a physical barrier against leaf miners and caterpillars. Water at the base of plants during morning hours to prevent fungal issues in humid autumn weather.

Vegetables	
Garlic	Prevent fungal bulb rots by planting clean cloves in well-drained raised beds and avoiding overwatering.
Kale	Hand-pick imported cabbage worms or apply organic <i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i> if foliage damage appears.
Radish	Cover emerging seedlings with fine insect mesh to prevent flea beetles from riddling leaves with holes.
Spinach	Protect leaves from leaf miners by installing lightweight floating row covers immediately after planting.
Herbs	
Chives	Deter onion thrips by maintaining steady moisture and rinsing foliage with insecticidal soap if needed.
Cilantro	Rinse off emerging aphid colonies with a firm jet of water from your garden hose.
Parsley	Inspect leaves for parsley caterpillars and relocate them by hand if defoliation becomes excessive.
Flowers	
Calendula	Ensure wide spacing and water only at soil level to prevent powdery mildew in damp conditions.
Pansy	Scatter organic iron phosphate bait around the base to protect delicate blooms from wet-weather slugs.
Sweet Alyssum	Protect young seedlings from flea beetles with lightweight fabric covers until plants are established.

Harvest Timeline

Harvest your cool-season crops in the cool morning hours to maximize moisture retention, crisp texture, and peak sweetness. Pick greens and herbs continuously from outer stems to encourage sustained growth throughout the mild maritime autumn. Store root vegetables and leafy greens in the refrigerator crisper drawer, while cut blossoms keep best in clean, cool water.

Vegetables	
Garlic	Harvest bulbs approximately 240 days after fall planting when the lower two to three leaves turn brown and dry in early summer.
Kale	Cut lower, mature leaves 55-65 days after seeding once they reach 8-10 inches in length, leaving the central bud intact for ongoing growth.
Radish	Pull roots 21-28 days after sowing when the root tops protrude slightly above the soil line and reach roughly one inch across.
Spinach	Harvest outer leaves 40-45 days after sowing when leaves reach 3-4 inches long, picking before flower stalks start to form.
Herbs	
Chives	Begin clipping leaves 60 days after emergence when blades stand 6 inches tall, cutting one inch above soil level.
Cilantro	Snip outer stems 45-50 days after emergence when plants reach 6 inches tall and before heat triggers flowering.
Parsley	Cut exterior stems near the base 70-80 days after planting once leaf stems have at least three distinct segments.
Flowers	
Calendula	Cut flower stems 50-60 days after planting when blossoms are half open in the morning for prolonged vase life.
Pansy	Pinch off spent blooms every few days as soon as petals begin to fade and curl to promote continuous winter flowering.
Sweet Alyssum	Shear back faded flower clusters every 2-3 weeks throughout the season to trigger fresh waves of aromatic blooms.

Seasonal Checklist

September

- Direct sow Spinach, Radish, and Cilantro seeds into raised beds.
- Transplant young Kale, Pansy, and Sweet Alyssum into beds.
- Keep seedbeds consistently moist with daily light hose watering.
- Divide and plant Chives clumps along garden borders.

November

- Apply three inches of clean straw mulch over Garlic.
- Install floating row covers over greens ahead of freezing weather.
- Harvest sweet frost-kissed Kale leaves from the bottom up.
- Clean, sharpen, and store garden tools for winter.

January

- Vent row covers during sunny afternoons to reduce humidity.
- Continue harvesting cold-hardy Kale and Spinach leaves as needed.
- Check Garlic beds to ensure straw mulch stays in place.
- Review garden layout and plan spring compost additions.

October

- Plant individual Garlic cloves two inches deep pointed end up.
- Harvest mature Radish roots and tender outer Spinach leaves.
- Thin Cilantro and Parsley seedlings to four inches apart.
- Deadhead spent Pansy and Calendula blooms to promote flowers.

December

- Check row covers after heavy rain or wind storms.
- Harvest hearty Parsley, Spinach, and Kale on mild days.
- Monitor soil moisture under covers and water lightly if dry.
- Scout for slugs around Pansy and Calendula plantings.

February

- Direct sow a late-winter succession round of Radish seeds.
- Side-dress emerging Garlic shoots and Kale with compost.
- Trim back dead winter foliage from Chives clumps.
- Turn cover crops and prep empty bed sections for spring.

Plant Spacing & Placement

Orient your raised beds running north to south to ensure even sun exposure across all your fall crops. Position taller upright crops like kale along the north end so they do not shade low-growing greens and root vegetables. Maintain at least 2 feet of walking space between your raised beds for comfortable access with garden hoses and tools.

Vegetables	
Garlic	Plant 20 to 24 cloves spaced 6 inches apart in an interior grid pattern where they can remain undisturbed through spring.
Kale	Plant 4 to 6 plants spaced 18 inches apart along the north edge of the raised bed so their tall canopy will not block light.
Radish	Sow 25 to 30 plants spaced 2 to 3 inches apart tucked between rows of slower-growing brassicas and garlic.
Spinach	Plant 15 to 20 plants spaced 4 to 6 inches apart in rows along the southern or eastern side of the bed.
Herbs	
Chives	Plant 3 to 4 clumps spaced 8 inches apart in bed corners where they can reliably return as perennials.
Cilantro	Plant 6 to 8 plants spaced 6 inches apart near the center where light shade from taller crops prevents premature bolting.
Parsley	Plant 4 to 6 plants spaced 8 to 10 inches apart along the accessible outer front edge of the bed for frequent harvest.
Flowers	
Calendula	Plant 4 to 6 plants spaced 10 to 12 inches apart interspersed among greens to deter pests and add edible blooms.
Pansy	Plant 8 to 10 plants spaced 6 to 8 inches apart along sunny bed borders for low-growing cool-season color.
Sweet Alyssum	Plant 6 to 8 plants spaced 6 inches apart around the perimeter to spill over edges and attract beneficial predators.