

School Gardens over Queensland Summer Holidays



We're often asked by schools "What do we do with the garden over the holidays?"

You have a couple of options - with pros and cons to each:

- 1
 - Clear the beds of weeds and add a 6 cm-thick layer of mulch on top. This limits weeds and evaporation. If the soil isn't watered for a long spell, it can dry out and die.
 - This option means there will be nothing to harvest until you re-plant in Term 1, and they produce.
- 2
 - Fill the beds with plants, ready for harvest at the beginning of Term 1. Mulch around them to limit weeds.
 - This requires reliable irrigation. Don't rely on people, including yourself!

Good intentions don't turn on taps!

Garden watering systems are fairly cheap, and dual outlet set-and-forget tap timers cost about \$80. Alternatively, raised garden beds may be converted to "wicking" or "self-watering" beds - which are more cost and labour intensive to begin with, but worthwhile in the long term. And provide a good sustainability lesson!

If possible, it's good to make sure someone visits your gardens once a week to check for pests, diseases, vandals or other problems.

What to plant in Term 4 for harvesting next year?

Local gardeners are the best source of knowledge. However, try having perennials in the food garden to pick from (e.g. herbs, climbing spinach etc). On page 2, you'll find a basic guide to popular annual veggies to grow over the summer holidays in different climates.

For further information visit: www.annettemcfarlane.com.au and www.hw.qld.gov.au/pick-of-the-crop

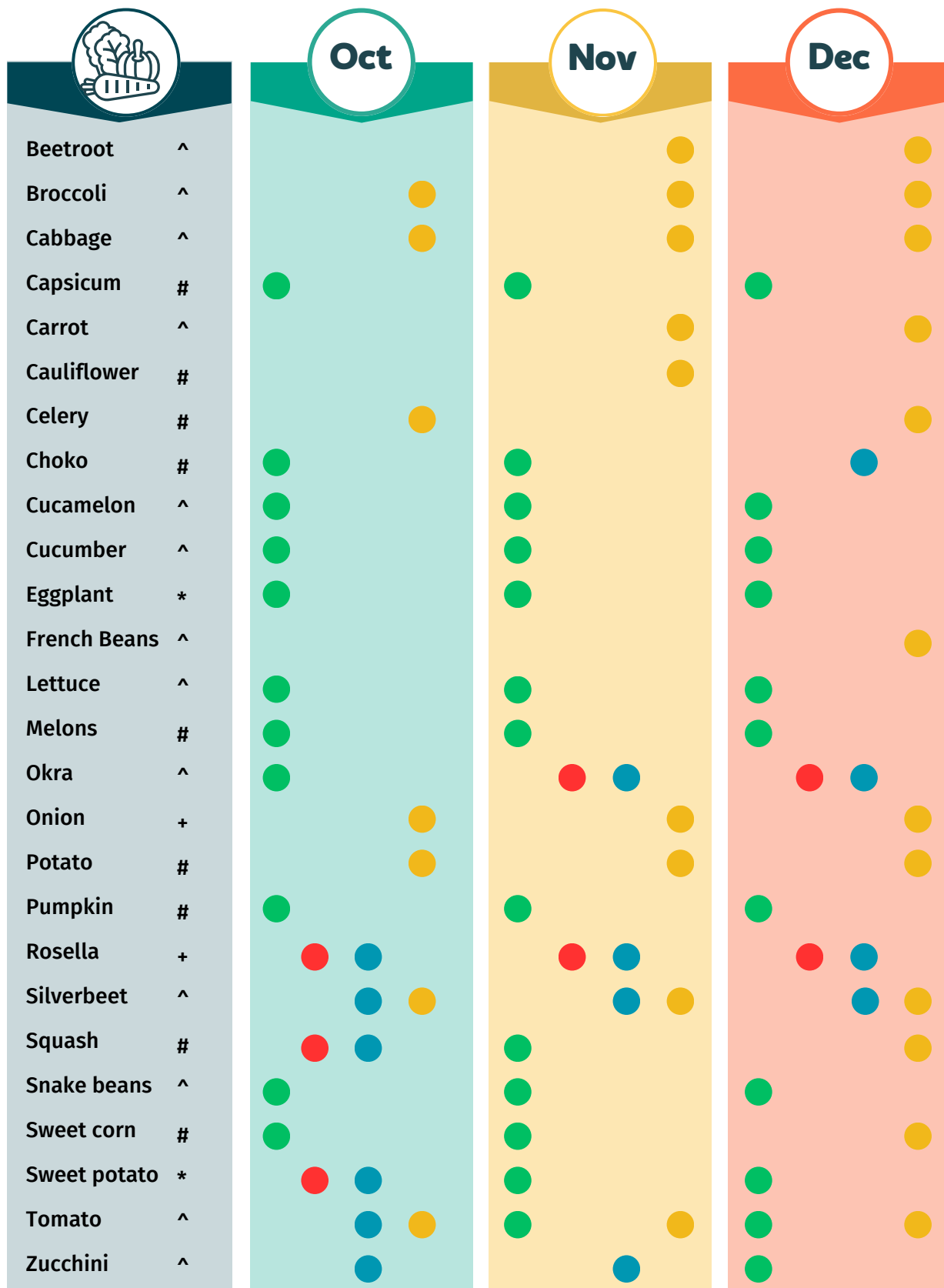
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Plant in Term 4 for harvesting next year

Notes

- Yellow: Warm Temperate: Roma / St George / Toowoomba district
- Blue: Subtropical: Coastal areas south of Rockhampton/ Logan/ Brisbane
- Red: Tropical: Northern tip and Coastal areas north of Rockhampton
- Green: All Zones

- ^ harvest 2-3 months after planting.
- # harvest 3-4 months after planting.
- * harvest 4-6 months after planting.
- + harvest 6+ months after planting.

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