



the local
carbon
network

Urban Farming - Lesson 2
Building your veggie calendar and book

Find local experts

When you first start out you may think you will just learn everything from internet and don't realise each town has its own microclimate, soil structure and common pests.

Your best option is to do your reading and then go speak to local experts about their real life experience.



Know what to ask

Each person has their own style and farming method and you can delve into each philosophy over time, but for starters all you need to know is how they grow each specific vegetable.

Focus on one plant at a time. Ask a few simple questions each time and take notes. Build your localised veggie book.



Sowing and Transplant

Ask if you can see a seed of the specific plant you want to know about, maybe even take a picture of it on your phone.

Ask at what dept it should be sown,
What the ideal temperature range is for sowing and after how many weeks (min-max) it is advisable to put outside.



Exposure

Does this plant like direct sunlight or indirect sunlight?

You can adjust lighting for your plant by choosing the correct location, by co-planting with some other veggie types that will provide shade, or by using some shading fabric in the hotter months.



Soil quality

You should find out what the optimal soil PH is for the particular plant.

Some plants require soil that drains particularly well because they are sensitive to root rot and other plants require very rich soil as they use up a lot of nutrients. Find out the specific soil needs of your plant.



Distances

For your distances try to speak to someone who is familiar with high density planting and vertical gardening as this can make quite a change in what you are being told.

Typically in raised beds or in balcony pots you need to stay a little closer and nourish the soil with compost.



Companion plants

Find out which plants your particular vegetable gets along with and which plants will stunt its growth.

Some species repel the parasites of the companion species. Other species enhance the flavour of the companion species.



Specific parasites and illnesses

Whereas there are some common ailments to all plants, certain vegetables have specific issues you should know about and look out for.

An example is the blossom end rot of tomatoes which has to do with soil PH, water and calcium availability.



Specific tasks

Plants may require specific extra tasks aside from weeding, watering and managing pests.

Tomatoes for example need desuckering, peas need trellising etc find out if the specific vegetable needs special attention during the various growth phases.

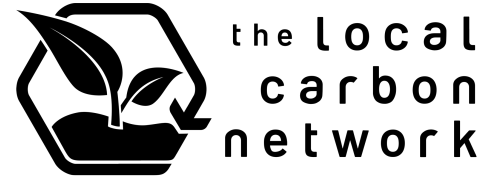


Harvest

Find out how and when to harvest your particular plant. Find out if it is annual or perennial and how to prepare it for the winter if it is perennial.

Find out if you are eating the root, the leaf, the flower or the fruit. Ask how to harvest seeds for the following year.



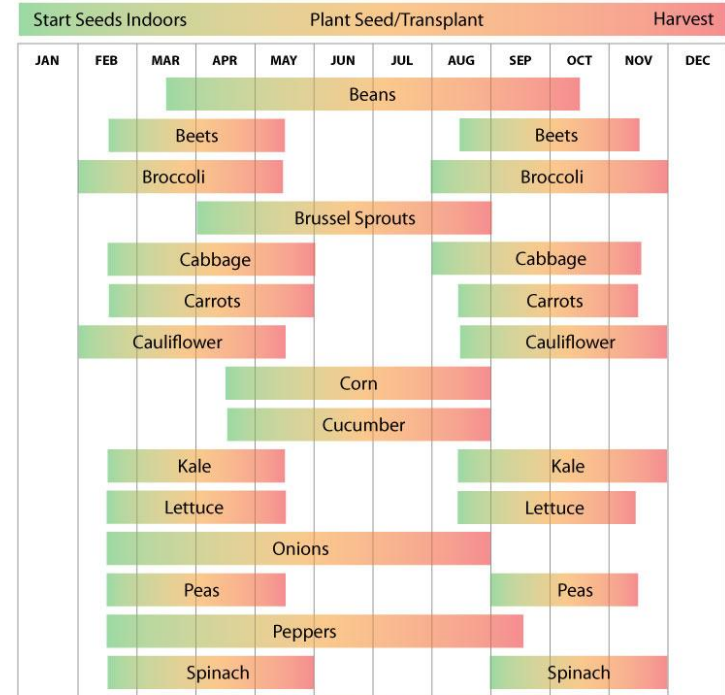


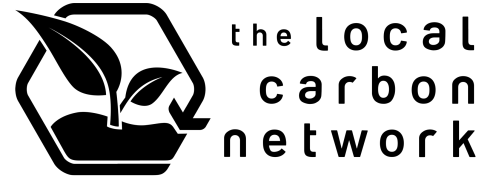
Courtesy of Urban Farmer Seeds

Build your calendar

Search online for planting schedules in your town or county.

Draw up your personal schedule on your google calendar, on a spreadsheet or on posterboard, taking into account the quantities you will need and the period of harvest you would like. Set tasks weekly.





The next lesson explains how to easily and cheaply start your seedlings at home...

If you have any questions please write to us in the Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/LocalCarbonNetwork>

or keep an eye out for our newsletter as we often arrange free online Q&A sessions on ZOOM

or see our FAQ, Articles and videos on the website <https://localcarbon.net/>

Thanks!