

THE SEED COTTAGE

GARDEN PLANNING WORKBOOK

From Packet to Planting Plan

THOUGHTFULLY PLANNED. BEAUTIFULLY GROWN.



Hello!

I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE.

My name is Callie, and I created this workbook to help you plan a garden and nail the timing for each variety that you decide to grow so that you reap the best possible harvest, whether that's edibles or blooms.

For years, I dabbled in vegetable gardening with mixed success. Often when inspiration hit in the spring and I finally got my act together, many of the ideal planting windows had closed, my timing was off for certain varieties, and everything was very hit or miss.

Then I decided to grow cut flowers and everything shifted. While I was completely inspired by the beauty and joy of growing an abundance of blooms, figuring out the unique planting windows and timing for each gorgeous variety felt daunting.

At the same time, I discovered The Dallas Garden School's cut flower planting guide. She had done all of the work to figure out the planting times for the crops that grow well in our area of North Texas and presented them in an easy to understand chart. I printed the guide, bought the varieties that were recommended, and followed her monthly planting schedule to a tee.

That year, I had the BEST gardening experience of my life. Everything felt easier because I finally had the timing right—for seed starting, direct sowing, and transplanting. I grew an abundance of flowers, enjoyed the process from start to finish, and felt so connected to the seasons and my little patch of land.

It was such a restorative and rewarding experience, and I realized that other women need to have this too, regardless of where you're located. Gardening meets us at so many levels—it gives us beauty, purpose, creativity, fresh air, nourishing food, and a sense of peace. It slows us down, connects us to something bigger, and reminds us that good things take time.

"Timing is everything."

But to actually experience a flourishing garden, we need a plan that organizes us and helps us to get the seeds into dirt at the right time - because timing is everything.

This workbook provides simple, practical tools to help you plan your seed starting and sowing with confidence, so you can experience the joy and abundance that a well-planned garden can bring.

Thank you for letting me be a part of your gardening journey. I can't wait to see what you grow!

Here's to rich soil, good timing, and a more beautiful life in the garden.

— Callie

THE SEED COTTAGE

HOW TO USE THIS WORKBOOK

From Seed Packet to Planting Plan

A little preparation grows a more beautiful tomorrow.

This workbook is designed to help you plan with confidence, grow with intention, and create a garden you love. Follow the steps below to move from your seed packets to a simple, beautiful planting plan.

— 01 —

KNOW YOUR GARDEN



Find your average last and first frost dates so your plan is specific to your growing season.

PAGES:

Frost Date Calculator

— 02 —

CALCULATE YOUR PLANTING WINDOWS



Use your frost dates to work backward and create your personal planting calendar.

PAGES:

Frost Date Calculator

— 03 —

LEARN YOUR SEED PACKETS



Use the information on each packet to determine when and how each crop should be planted.

PAGES:

Reading Your Seed Packets

— 04 —

PLAN EACH MONTH



Move your crops onto the monthly pages under Start Indoors, Direct Sow, or Transplant.

PAGES:

January – December

— 05 —

GROW & TAKE NOTES



Record what worked, what didn't, harvests, succession plantings, and things you want to remember next season.

PAGES:

Monthly Pages
Garden Notes

A FINAL THOUGHT

You don't have to plan the whole garden at once.

Start with your seeds, work backward from your frost dates, and let the calendar guide you. Progress over perfection leads to a more joyful and abundant garden.

PLAN WELL · GROW BEAUTIFULLY

THE SEED COTTAGE

Step One

FROST DATE CALCULATOR

Know your dates. Grow with confidence.

The right time in the garden is always worth the wait.

Use your area's average last and first frost dates to create your personal planting calendar. Count backward from these dates using the intervals below to find the best time to start seeds indoors and to plant outdoors.

MY AVERAGE LAST FROST DATE

_____

This is the date you'll use for spring planting and seed starting.

MY AVERAGE FIRST FROST DATE

_____

This is the date you'll use for fall planting and succession crops.

WORK BACKWARD FROM LAST FROST

For spring planting and seed starting.

PLANTING WINDOW	MY DATE	MONTH
14 WEEKS BEFORE		
12 WEEKS BEFORE		
10 WEEKS BEFORE		
8 WEEKS BEFORE		
6 WEEKS BEFORE		
4 WEEKS BEFORE		
2 WEEKS BEFORE		

WORK BACKWARD FROM FIRST FROST

For fall planting and succession crops.

PLANTING WINDOW	MY DATE	MONTH
12 WEEKS BEFORE		
10 WEEKS BEFORE		
8 WEEKS BEFORE		
6 WEEKS BEFORE		
4 WEEKS BEFORE		
2 WEEKS BEFORE		

A NOTE ABOUT THESE DATES

These are planning guidelines, not guarantees. Weather varies from year to year, so always follow your seed packet instructions and pay attention to actual growing conditions in your area. When in doubt, your seed packet takes priority.



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HEALTHY SOIL THRIVING PLANTS

The Foundation for a Beautiful Garden

It all begins beneath the surface.

Healthy soil. Happier plants. Brighter days.

Great gardening doesn't start with seeds—it starts with soil. Healthy soil provides the nutrients, structure, and biology your plants need to grow strong, productive, and resilient. When your soil is healthy, your plants are healthier, your garden is easier to maintain, and you're rewarded with more beauty and a bigger harvest.

WHY SOIL TESTING MATTERS

A soil test gives you a clear picture of what's in your soil so you can make informed decisions and provide what your garden actually needs. It measures key factors like pH, macronutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium), micronutrients (such as calcium, magnesium, and sulfur), and organic matter. Knowing what you have allows you to amend with intention—adding only what's needed instead of guessing.

THE BRIX CONNECTION

Healthy soil gives plants access to the nutrients they need to grow strong and nutrient-dense. When plants are well nourished, they naturally produce higher levels of sugars and other soluble solids—reflected in a higher Brix reading when you test the plant tissue.

Why does this matter? Plants with higher Brix levels tend to be less appealing to many common garden pests, making them more resilient and better able to withstand environmental stress.

Healthy Soil → Well-Nourished Plants → Higher Brix → Fewer Pest Problems

HEALTHY PLANTS DETER PESTS

Pests are opportunists. They tend to go after plants that are weak, stressed, or deficient in nutrients. By building healthy soil and growing strong, well-nourished plants, you're giving your garden a natural layer of protection. It's one of the most effective (and most natural) ways to keep pests in check.

A STORY FROM MY GARDEN

A few summers ago, I planted two separate beds of zinnias. One bed was in soil I had thoroughly amended with compost and the nutrients recommended from my soil test. The other bed was in a poorer section of my garden that hadn't been amended.

Within a few weeks, the difference was unmistakable. The zinnias in the poorer soil were quickly eaten up by grasshoppers—leaves chewed, stems damaged, and many plants didn't survive. Meanwhile, the zinnias in the healthy, amended soil were left almost completely alone. They grew strong, full, and beautiful all season long.

That experience made me a believer: when you build healthy soil, you give your plants their best natural defense.

Healthy soil grows stronger plants—and stronger plants are simply less desirable to pests.

MY RECOMMENDATION

For a reliable and easy-to-use soil test, I recommend SoilKit. Their garden soil test kit is simple to use, provides detailed lab results, and includes personalized recommendations to help you build healthier soil.

soilkit.com

Garden Soil Test Kit
Lab Analysis Included
Easy Instructions

THE PAYOFF

- Healthier, more productive plants
- Fewer pest problems
- Better nutrient availability
- More vibrant flowers and bigger harvests
- A garden that thrives year after year

Feed the soil. Grow stronger plants. Give pests less reason to stay.

THE SEED COTTAGE

AUTOMATIC WATERING

Less Work Today. A Healthier Garden Tomorrow.

Consistent care grows stronger plants and sweeter harvests.

A well-watered garden is a happier garden.

Water is life in the garden. An automatic watering system takes the guesswork out of gardening, keeps your plants healthy, conserves water, and gives you more time to enjoy the process. Whether you have a few raised beds or a large garden, there's a watering solution that can work for you.

WATERING OPTIONS

01

DRIP TAPE

Our Favorite



Drip tape is a flat, flexible tubing with built-in emitters that slowly release water along the entire length. It's affordable, easy to install, and perfect for rows of vegetables and flowers.

- Water-efficient
- Keeps foliage dry
- Great for garden rows
- Inexpensive
- Easy to set up

02

DRIP IRRIGATION

Individual Emitters



Drip irrigation uses tubing with individual emitters to deliver water directly to each plant. It's highly customizable and works well for mixed plantings, containers, or garden beds with varying spacing.

- Targeted watering
- Great for containers and unique layouts
- Highly customizable
- Water-efficient
- More parts to install

03

SOAKER HOSES

Simple & Affordable



Soaker hoses slowly release water through porous material along the entire length of the hose. They're simple to use and work well for smaller beds or traditional garden rows.

- Easy to set up
- Affordable
- Good for small to medium gardens
- Keeps foliage dry
- Less uniform than drip systems

04

SPRINKLERS

For Larger Areas



Sprinklers can be set on a timer and are useful for lawns or larger garden areas. They're less ideal for vegetable beds because they wet the foliage, which can increase disease risk and waste water through evaporation.

- Good for large spaces
- Quick to install
- Less water-efficient
- Wets foliage
- Not ideal for vegetable beds

THE TIMER

The easiest way to make watering consistent.



A timer connects to your outdoor spigot and automatically turns your watering system on and off according to the schedule you choose. Pair one with drip tape, drip irrigation, or a soaker hose and you no longer have to remember to water your garden every day.

WHY USE A TIMER?

- **CONSISTENCY**
  Your plants receive water on a regular schedule.
- **CONVENIENCE**
  No dragging hoses or wondering if you remembered.
- **WATER WISELY**
  Set the duration and frequency based on your soil, plants, season, and weather.
- **PEACE OF MIND**
  Your garden can continue receiving water while you're busy or away.

MY SETUP

DRIP TAPE + TIMER

I use drip tape throughout my garden beds and connect it to a simple outdoor timer. The drip tape delivers water slowly right where my plants need it, while the timer takes care of the schedule.

It's one of the best investments I've made in my garden.

DON'T MAKE WATERING ONE MORE THING YOU HAVE TO REMEMBER.

Build a system that does it for you.

THE SEED COTTAGE

HOW TO USE

Your Monthly Seed Planning Pages

SORT • PLAN • LOG • GROW

A well-planned garden begins with a packet and a plan.

Small seeds today, a brighter tomorrow.



The January – December pages are your place to keep track of the seed packets you have, what you plan to grow, and when to plant them. Use the key below to fill out each month and create a clear plan for the growing season.

1 SORT YOUR SEED PACKETS

Go through your seed collection and sort the packets by the month you plan to start them (based on your planting windows). Use the information on your seed packets and the "Calculate Planting Windows" worksheet to determine the best month to start indoors, direct sow, or transplant.

2 FILL IN EACH SECTION

On each monthly page, write the crop and variety in the appropriate column based on how you plan to grow it. You can add as many varieties as you like. Use one line per crop or variety.

3 KEEP PACKETS TOGETHER

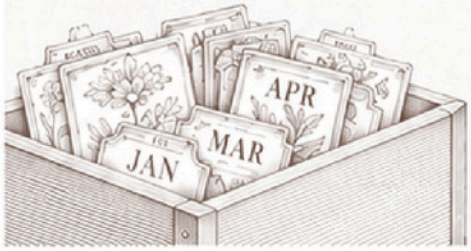
As you record a seed packet on the monthly page, place the actual packet behind that month's tab in your Seed Library. This keeps everything organized and easy to find when it's time to plant.

4 CHECK OFF AS YOU GO

When you sow, transplant, or harvest, check off the boxes on your monthly page. This helps you stay on track and gives you a record of what you've planted throughout the year.

5 MAKE NOTES

Use the notes section at the bottom of the page to jot down helpful information like variety notes, where you planted it, germination success, or anything you want to remember for next year.



A place for every packet and a season for every seed.

A CLOSER LOOK

Each monthly page includes space for:

Name of the plant · Variety name (from packet) · Check the boxes as you go · Notes, observations, or reminders

THE GARDEN CALENDAR

MARCH

The garden begins to stir.

Plan, order, and prepare for the growing season ahead.

START INDOORS *Seeds to begin indoors this month.*	DIRECT SOW *Seeds to sow outdoors this month.*	TRANSPLANT *Transplants & crops to plant outdoors this month.*
CROP / VARIETY	CROP / VARIETY	CROP / VARIETY
Tomato - Brandywine ☐	Carrot - Nantes ☐	Broccoli ☐
Tomato - Sungold ☐	Radish - Cherry Belle ☐	Cabbage ☐
Pepper - California Wonder ☐	Spinach - Bloomsdale ☐	Cauliflower ☐
Pepper - Jalapeño ☐	Lettuce - Buttercrunch ☐	Onions (sets) ☐
Eggplant - Black Beauty ☐	Peas - Sugar Snap ☐	Leeks ☐
Zinnia - Benary's Giant ☐	Beets - Detroit Dark Red ☐	☐
Cosmos - Sensation ☐	Cilantro ☐	☐
Basil - Genovese ☐	Dill ☐	☐
☐	Calendula ☐	☐
☐	Sunflower ☐	☐

GARDEN NOTES

Anything to remember this month...

- *Final frost date (DFW): around March 15.*
- *Prepare and amend garden beds.*
- *Direct sow cool-season crops as soon as soil can be worked.*
- *Start warm-season seeds indoors.*
- *Order any remaining seeds and supplies.*
- *Clean, sharpen, and organize garden tools.*

PLAN WELL • GROW BEAUTIFULLY

HELPFUL TIPS

- Use the planting information on your seed packet.
- Refer to your calculated planting windows.
- It's okay to plan more than one planting time for some crops.
- Keep your seed packets stored in a cool, dry place.
- Update your notes each season to learn what works best in your garden.

THE GARDEN CALENDAR



JANUARY

A new year, a fresh start.

Plan, order, and prepare for the growing season ahead.





START INDOORS

Seeds to begin indoors this month.

CROP / VARIETY



DIRECT SOW

Seeds to sow outdoors this month.

CROP / VARIETY



TRANSPLANT

Transplants & crops to plant outdoors this month.

CROP / VARIETY

GARDEN NOTES

Anything to remember this month...

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THE GARDEN CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

The first signs of spring begin.

Plan, order, and prepare for the growing season ahead.



"No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn."
— HAL BORLAND



START INDOORS

Seeds to begin indoors this month.

CROP / VARIETY



DIRECT SOW

Seeds to sow outdoors this month.

CROP / VARIETY



TRANSPLANT

Transplants & crops to plant outdoors this month.

CROP / VARIETY

GARDEN NOTES

Anything to remember this month...

PLAN WELL · GROW BEAUTIFULLY





THE GARDEN CALENDAR

MARCH

The garden begins to stir.

Plan, order, and prepare for the growing season ahead.





START INDOORS

Seeds to begin indoors this month.

CROP / VARIETY



DIRECT SOW

Seeds to sow outdoors this month.

CROP / VARIETY



TRANSPLANT

Transplants & crops to plant outdoors this month.

CROP / VARIETY

GARDEN NOTES

Anything to remember this month…

PLAN WELL · GROW BEAUTIFULLY



THE GARDEN CALENDAR

APRIL

Spring is taking root.

Plan, order, and prepare for the growing season ahead.

START INDOORS

Seeds to begin indoors this month.

CROP / VARIETY

DIRECT SOW

Seeds to sow outdoors this month.

CROP / VARIETY

TRANSPLANT

Transplants & crops to plant outdoors this month.

CROP / VARIETY

GARDEN NOTES

Anything to remember this month...

PLAN WELL · GROW BEAUTIFULLY

THE GARDEN CALENDAR

MAY

The garden comes alive.





START INDOORS

Seeds to begin indoors this month.

CROP / VARIETY

DIRECT SOW

Seeds to sow outdoors this month.

CROP / VARIETY

TRANSPLANT

Transplants & crops to plant outdoors this month.

CROP / VARIETY

GARDEN NOTES

Anything to remember this month...

PLAN WELL · GROW BEAUTIFULLY

THE GARDEN CALENDAR

JUNE

Long days bring abundant growth.

Plan, order, and prepare for the growing season ahead.

START INDOORS

Seeds to begin indoors this month.

CROP / VARIETY

DIRECT SOW

Seeds to sow outdoors this month.

CROP / VARIETY

TRANSPLANT

Transplants & crops to plant outdoors this month.

CROP / VARIETY

GARDEN NOTES

Anything to remember this month...

PLAN WELL · GROW BEAUTIFULLY

THE GARDEN CALENDAR

JULY

Harvests begin to fill the garden.

Plan, order, and prepare for the growing season ahead.

START INDOORS

Seeds to begin indoors this month.

CROP / VARIETY

DIRECT SOW

Seeds to sow outdoors this month.

CROP / VARIETY

TRANSPLANT

Transplants & crops to plant outdoors this month.

CROP / VARIETY

GARDEN NOTES

Anything to remember this month...

PLAN WELL · GROW BEAUTIFULLY

THE GARDEN CALENDAR

AUGUST

Save, sow, and prepare for fall.







START INDOORS

Seeds to begin indoors this month.

CROP / VARIETY



DIRECT SOW

Seeds to sow outdoors this month.

CROP / VARIETY



TRANSPLANT

Transplants & crops to plant outdoors this month.

CROP / VARIETY

GARDEN NOTES

Anything to remember this month...

PLAN WELL · GROW BEAUTIFULLY



THE GARDEN CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

The cool-season garden begins.

Plan, order, and prepare for the growing season ahead.

START INDOORS

Seeds to begin indoors this month.

CROP / VARIETY

DIRECT SOW

Seeds to sow outdoors this month.

CROP / VARIETY

TRANSPLANT

Transplants & crops to plant outdoors this month.

CROP / VARIETY

GARDEN NOTES

Anything to remember this month...

PLAN WELL · GROW BEAUTIFULLY

THE GARDEN CALENDAR

OCTOBER

Plant now for the seasons ahead.

Plan, order, and prepare for the growing season ahead.

START INDOORS

Seeds to begin indoors this month.

CROP / VARIETY

DIRECT SOW

Seeds to sow outdoors this month.

CROP / VARIETY

TRANSPLANT

Transplants & crops to plant outdoors this month.

CROP / VARIETY

GARDEN NOTES

Anything to remember this month...

PLAN WELL · GROW BEAUTIFULLY

THE GARDEN CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

Gather, reflect, and prepare.

Plan, order, and prepare for the growing season ahead.





START INDOORS

Seeds to begin indoors this month.

CROP / VARIETY

DIRECT SOW

Seeds to sow outdoors this month.

CROP / VARIETY

TRANSPLANT

Transplants & crops to plant outdoors this month.

CROP / VARIETY

GARDEN NOTES

Anything to remember this month...

PLAN WELL · GROW BEAUTIFULLY

THE GARDEN CALENDAR

DECEMBER

Rest, dream, and plan for spring.

Plan, order, and prepare for the growing season ahead.

START INDOORS

Seeds to begin indoors this month.

CROP / VARIETY

DIRECT SOW

Seeds to sow outdoors this month.

CROP / VARIETY

TRANSPLANT

Transplants & crops to plant outdoors this month.

CROP / VARIETY

GARDEN NOTES

Anything to remember this month...

PLAN WELL · GROW BEAUTIFULLY