

Excerpts from “Gardener’s Calendar, by Mrs. Logan”

[**Student Notes:** The word “sow” means “to plant.” The word “reap” means “to harvest.”]

Known to succeed in Charleston [South Carolina] and its vicinity for many years.

JANUARY

Plant out all kind of evergreens, either from roots or slips. Sow late pease and beans. Sow summer cabbage and parsley; the last at the change of the moon, the first at the full, that the parsley may grow luxuriantly, and the cabbage head well. Sow spinach for seed, in a small bed of rich land but let it never be cut, and it will yield a quantity of seed. Plant out artichokes, which will bear in the fall after. Also plant rose and other trees, either for fruit or ornament, except those of the orange tribe, as these are not to be moved till April. All kinds of flowering shrubs are now to be moved.

FEBRUARY

Sow all kinds of early melons, cucumbers, kidney-beans, squashes, asparagus, radishes, lettuce, and garden cresses, for seed. Sow late dwarf pease, and onion seed; and at the full of the moon, carrots, parsnips, and red beets, in beds prepared before wanted, made ready as follows; lay a quantity of dung on the beds, and turn them up repeatedly with a spade, very deep; then make them up about two feet broad, trench them in shallow gutters, in which drop your seed, cover them and let them lie. The middle of this month is proper for grafting in the cleft; if your trees have not been pruned, they must not be neglected now. Set out fig trees-plant out hops, and all kinds of aromatick herbs-set out cabbages, carrots, parsnips, turnips, &c. designed for next year’s seed, but they ought to be hanging up in some dry cellar since December. Plant Irish potatoes. Sow oats, and reap in June.

MARCH

What was neglected last month, may be successfully done in this: Sow French and sewee beans, all sorts of melons, &c. tomatoes-seed, red pepper, for pickling-celery seed for next winter, which must be set out when of a proper size, and let grow all the summer, in gutters where it is to be blanched. Plant another crop of vines, rounceval pease, and transplant aromatic herbs. Now trim orange and lemon trees.

APRIL

Sow cabbages, cauliflowers, and savoys, for next winter; (see general directions after this calendar) but let them remain in the nursery bed until August; when rain sets in, transplant them in good rich land, laying their long stalks into the ground, up to the tops, leaving out only the leaves; from these you will have early cabbage and cauliflowers for winter. You may set out the savoy plants, when they are of a proper size, and let them grown all summer, as they will bear the heat without rotting, which neither of the others will do. You may sow carrots and parsnips, but let it be on the full of the moon, shade and water, to get up the seed. Plant out orange trees, &c. but let it be done at the change of the moon, watering them well, until they have taken root.

MAY

This month is chiefly for weeding and watering, as nothing does well, either planted or sowed in it, unless you shade them. You may sow endive or cabbage for the fall.

JUNE

Clip herbs for drying, and evergreens, if they are too much grown, but not otherwise, as the heat will be apt to dry them too much. If you have lost the last seasons for sowing carrots and parsnips, you may now sow them; but the beds must be watered, and then shaded to bring up the seeds; after the seed is in the ground, you may lay over the bed some long litter or wet straw, which must be taken off at night, and put on wet in the morning until it comes up, then shade them with crotches and boughs laid over, until they are strong enough to bear the sun-remember to make your bed according to the directions given in February.

JULY

This month is only fit for weeding and watering; if you have showers, plant late French beans. Early turnips, onions, and carrots may be sowed the full of the moon, but will require the same pains to bring them up as the last month; early sallad will do with care. Be sure to water every thing designed for seed, as much depends on it; but this must be done only in the evening, while the hot weather lasts.

AUGUST

At the full moon, sow parsnips, carrots, radish, turnips, onions, cauliflowers, cabbages, endive, and savoy; all in shady places, except the two former, and these must be covered with boughs, to help their growth. Set out the plants sowed in April, as before directed, and be sure to water them constantly, if necessary, which will soon supply your garden.

SEPTEMBER

As we may suppose showers of rain are frequent, sow the following seeds: spinage, lettuce, water and garden cresses, chervil, endive, parsley, late cauliflowers; all those on the increase of the moon. Cabbage, radish, and turnips, on the full; set out monthly roses, at the change, give them plenty of water and dung; you may also inoculate with the bud. Large onions may be set out for seed about the end of the month.

OCTOBER

Dress your artichoke, taking away all their suckers, except three to each root, open their roots, lay about them a good quantity of untried earth and dung mixed, which method is proper in all cases where the roots are opened: if your plant suckers set them in places which have been dug out two feet square, and filled up with untried earth and dung. Trim and dress your asparagus beds, in the following manner; cut down the stalks, lay them over the bed and burn them; this done, dig up between the roots, and level it, then cover the bed, three fingers deep, with dung and earth mixed, and let it lie. You may plant cellery, set it in gutters; as it grows, hill it up. Sow raddish, and lettuce. Plant white and monthly roses, box, shalots, and evergreens.

NOVEMBER

Earth up cellery, which was planted out in the spring. Tie up endive for blanching. Continue to sow spinage, radish, and lettuce seeds. Plant Windsor beans. (A liquor to steep Windsor beans, to give the first shoot strength, is prepared as follows: take three quarts of sheep dung, two quarts of pigeons, four quarts of fowls, and six quarts of well rotted horse dung from an old dung hill; pour eight gallons of water on it, stirring it well and frequently; after standing twelve hours, pour off the clear liquor, and let your beans lie twenty-four hours in it, then plant them out immediately.) Sow early pease. Trim your monthly roses; and at the full moon, open their roots and dung them. Sow cabbage for the spring; but screen them from severe cold, while very young. Prune your vines; and plant out red and striped rose trees.

DECEMBER

Prune and trim all kinds of vines, and fruit trees, except the orange tribe. Transplant all sorts of evergreen and other trees; all kinds of rose and sweet briars, honeysuckle, and jasmines. Sow late pease and Windsor beans, and set out onions for seed.

Source: "Gardener's Calendar, by Mrs. Logan," in *Palladium of Knowledge: or, the Carolina and Georgia Almanac, For the Year of Our Lord 1798* (Charleston, S.C.: Printed by W.P. Young, 1798).