

# PRAIRIE NEST HOMESTEAD SEASONAL TASK CALENDAR

## Your Year-Round Guide to Homestead Success

*Download and print this comprehensive calendar to stay organized throughout your homestead year.*




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## HOW TO USE THIS CALENDAR

### Regional Adaptations

- **Zones 3-5 (Northern):** Add 2-4 weeks to spring dates, subtract 2-4 weeks from fall dates
- **Zones 8-10 (Southern):** Subtract 2-4 weeks from spring dates, add 2-4 weeks to fall dates
- **Zones 6-7 (Moderate):** Use dates as written with minor local adjustments

### Priority Levels

-  **Critical:** Must be done this time period
-  **Important:** Should be done if possible
-  **Optional:** Nice to have, can be postponed

### Time Estimates





- **Quick (Q):** Under 2 hours
  - **Moderate (M):** 2-6 hours
  - **Project (P):** Multiple days/weekends
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## SPRING TASKS (MARCH - MAY)





### MARCH: "PLANNING & PREPARATION MONTH"

#### Week 1 (Early March)




#### Garden Planning:

-  Test soil pH and nutrients (Q)
-  Order seeds if not already done (Q)
-  Plan garden layout and crop rotation (M)
-  Research new varieties to try (Q)

### **Infrastructure:**




-  Clean and organize garden tools (M)
-  Repair garden beds and trellises (M)
-  Check irrigation systems (Q)
-  Plan new infrastructure projects (Q)

### **Preservation & Kitchen:**




-  Inventory preserved foods from last year (Q)
-  Check canning supplies and equipment (Q)
-  Plan preservation goals for coming year (Q)

### **Week 2 (Mid-March)**




#### **Seed Starting:**

-  Start cool-season crops indoors (tomatoes, peppers, eggplant) (Q)
-  Start herbs (basil, oregano, thyme) (Q)
-  Set up seed starting area with proper lighting (M)

#### **Soil Preparation:**




-  Add compost to garden beds (M)
-  Till or double-dig beds if needed (M)
-  Mulch around perennials (Q)

#### **Livestock (if applicable):**




-  Deep clean chicken coop (M)
-  Check and repair fencing (M)
-  Plan breeding schedule (Q)

### **Week 3 (Late March)**

#### **Garden Preparation:**




-  Install season extenders (cold frames, row covers) (M)
-  Set up plant protection systems (Q)
-  Create plant labels and markers (Q)

## Equipment & Tools:




-  Service lawn mower and garden equipment (M)
-  Sharpen hand tools (Q)
-  Stock up on basic supplies (fertilizer, pest control) (Q)

## Week 4 (End March)

### Early Planting:

-  Plant peas, spinach, lettuce outdoors (cool climates) (Q)
-  Plant radishes, carrots, onions (Q)
-  Start succession planting schedule (Q)





### Planning Review:

-  Review and adjust monthly goals (Q)
-  Prepare for April intensive planting (Q)
-  Document progress and lessons learned (Q)




## APRIL: "ACTIVE PLANTING MONTH"

### Week 1 (Early April)

#### Cool Season Planting:


-  Transplant cool-season starts outdoors (Q)
-  Direct seed cold-hardy vegetables (Q)
-  Plant bare-root trees and shrubs (M)
-  Plant asparagus crowns (M)

#### Garden Maintenance:

-  Begin weekly garden inspection routine (Q)
-  Install plant supports and trellises (M)
-  Apply organic fertilizer to established beds (Q)

### Week 2 (Mid-April)

#### Succession Planting:

-  Plant second round of lettuce and greens (Q)

- 🟡 Plant cool-season herbs outdoors (Q)
- 🟢 Start warm-season seeds indoors (if not done) (Q)

#### **Pest Prevention:**

- 🟡 Monitor for early pest problems (Q)
- 🟡 Install row covers for pest protection (Q)
- 🟡 Encourage beneficial insects with flowers (Q)

#### **Week 3 (Late April)**

##### **Infrastructure Projects:**

- 🟡 Install permanent irrigation systems (P)
- 🟡 Build or improve composting systems (M)
- 🟢 Create dedicated herb garden area (M)

##### **Preservation Prep:**

- 🟡 Order canning supplies for summer (Q)
- 🟡 Clean and test preservation equipment (Q)
- 🟢 Plan first preservation activities (Q)

#### **Week 4 (End April)**

##### **Garden Expansion:**

- 🟡 Plant berry bushes and fruit trees (M)
- 🟡 Establish perennial herbs (M)
- 🟢 Create wildflower areas for pollinators (Q)




##### **Monthly Review:**

- 🟡 Assess April planting success (Q)
- 🟡 Adjust May planting schedule (Q)
- 🟢 Document varieties and timing (Q)




### **MAY: "GROWTH & ESTABLISHMENT MONTH"**

#### **Week 1 (Early May)**

##### **Warm Season Preparation:**




-  Harden off warm-season transplants (Q)
-  Prepare beds for heat-loving crops (Q)
-  Install heat protection (shade cloth) if needed (M)

### **Garden Care:**




-  Begin regular watering schedule (Q)
-  Monitor and manage pests actively (Q)
-  Side-dress heavy feeders with compost (Q)

### **Week 2 (Mid-May)**

#### **Major Planting:**




-  Transplant tomatoes, peppers, eggplant (Q)
-  Direct seed beans, squash, cucumbers (Q)
-  Plant heat-loving herbs (Q)

#### **Support Systems:**




-  Install tomato cages and supports (M)
-  Set up bean poles and trellises (M)
-  Mulch around all plants (M)

### **Week 3 (Late May)**

#### **Garden Maintenance:**

-  Begin weekly harvesting routine (Q)
-  Start succession planting warm crops (Q)
-  Begin regular pruning of herbs (Q)

#### **First Harvest:**

-  Harvest early greens and radishes (Q)
-  Cut herbs for first drying batch (Q)
-  Plan use for early harvest (Q)

### **Week 4 (End May)**

#### **Summer Preparation:**

- ● Install summer irrigation schedules (Q)
  - ● Plan vacation plant care (Q)
  - ● Set up harvest recording system (Q)
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## SUMMER TASKS (JUNE - AUGUST)

### JUNE: "EARLY HARVEST MONTH"

#### Week 1 (Early June)

##### Harvest Begins:

- ● Begin regular harvest schedule (Q)
- ● Start first preservation activities (M)
- ● Harvest herbs for drying (Q)

##### Garden Maintenance:

- ● Deep water weekly during heat (Q)
- ● Monitor pest pressure closely (Q)
- ● Prune tomato suckers (Q)

#### Week 2 (Mid-June)

##### Preservation Start:

- ● First round of freezing vegetables (M)
- ● Begin herb preservation (drying, freezing) (M)
- ● Start making flavored vinegars (Q)

##### Garden Care:

- ● Mulch heavily for moisture retention (M)
- ● Support heavy fruit branches (Q)
- ● Begin summer pruning routine (Q)

#### Week 3 (Late June)

##### Mid-Season Planting:

- ● Plant fall crops in cooler areas (Q)

- 🟡 Succession plant heat-tolerant greens (Q)
- 🟢 Start growing cover crops in empty beds (Q)

### **Water Management:**

- 🟡 Adjust watering for heat waves (Q)
- 🟡 Install shade cloth if needed (M)
- 🟡 Monitor soil moisture levels (Q)

### **Week 4 (End June)**

### **Monthly Assessment:**

- 🟡 Evaluate garden performance (Q)
- 🟡 Plan July preservation marathon (Q)
- 🟢 Document successful varieties (Q)

## **JULY: "PEAK PRODUCTION MONTH"**

### **Week 1 (Early July)**

### **Intensive Harvesting:**

- 🟡 Daily harvest of peak crops (Q)
- 🟡 Begin major preservation push (M-P)
- 🟡 Harvest grains if applicable (M)

### **Heat Management:**

- 🟡 Morning harvesting routine (Q)
- 🟡 Provide shade for cool crops (M)
- 🟡 Increase watering frequency (Q)

### **Week 2 (Mid-July)**

### **Preservation Marathon:**

- 🟡 Water bath canning peak season (M-P)
- 🟡 Dehydrating surplus vegetables (M)
- 🟡 Blanch and freeze excess (M)

### **Garden Maintenance:**

- ● Summer pruning of fruit trees (M)
- ● Deadhead flowers to encourage production (Q)
- ● Plan fall garden space (Q)

### **Week 3 (Late July)**

#### **Fall Prep Begins:**

- ● Start fall vegetable seeds (Q)
- ● Prepare beds for fall planting (M)
- ● Order fall/winter cover crop seeds (Q)

#### **Continued Preservation:**

- ● Continue intensive preservation (M-P)
- ● Make pickles and fermented foods (M)
- ● Begin sauce and paste making (M)

### **Week 4 (End July)**

#### **Mid-Summer Review:**

- ● Assess preservation progress (Q)
- ● Plan August activities (Q)
- ● Document successful preservation methods (Q)

## **AUGUST: "PRESERVATION PEAK MONTH"**

### **Week 1 (Early August)**

#### **Peak Preservation:**

- ● Tomato sauce and paste marathon (P)
- ● Cucumber pickle production (M)
- ● Corn preservation (blanch, freeze, dry) (M)

#### **Fall Garden Start:**

- ● Transplant fall vegetables (Q)
- ● Direct seed fall crops (Q)
- ● Plant cover crops in finished beds (Q)



## Week 2 (Mid-August)

### Seed Saving:

- ● Begin seed saving from best plants (M)
- ● Mark plants for seed saving (Q)
- ● Research seed saving techniques (Q)

### Equipment Maintenance:

- ● Clean and maintain preservation equipment (Q)
- ● Check freezer and storage areas (Q)
- ● Plan equipment upgrades (Q)

## Week 3 (Late August)

### Continued Harvest:

- ● Continue intensive harvesting (Q)
- ● Preserve beans and late summer crops (M)
- ● Begin early apple preservation (M)

### Garden Transition:

- ● Remove finished summer plants (M)
- ● Plant late fall vegetables (Q)
- ● Begin planning next year's garden (Q)

## Week 4 (End August)

### Summer Wrap-Up:

- ● Inventory preservation accomplishments (Q)
- ● Plan September activities (Q)
- ● Begin fall planning (Q)




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## FALL TASKS (SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER)




### SEPTEMBER: "HARVEST & TRANSITION MONTH"

#### Week 1 (Early September)

## **Fall Harvest Begins:**




-  Harvest winter squash and pumpkins (M)
-  Begin root vegetable harvest (Q)
-  Harvest and preserve apples (M)

## **Garden Transition:**




-  Remove spent summer plants (M)
-  Plant garlic and fall onions (Q)
-  Seed winter cover crops (Q)

## **Week 2 (Mid-September)**

### **Preservation Continues:**




-  Root cellaring vegetables (M)
-  Dehydrate herbs for winter (Q)
-  Make apple sauce and butter (M)

### **Seed Saving:**




-  Collect and process seeds (M)
-  Dry and store seeds properly (Q)
-  Label and organize seed collection (Q)

## **Week 3 (Late September)**

### **Fall Maintenance:**




-  Fertilize fall gardens (Q)
-  Install season extenders (Q)
-  Begin fall cleanup routine (M)

### **Winter Prep:**

-  Check and repair cold frames (M)
-  Plan winter growing setups (Q)
-  Order winter growing supplies (Q)

## **Week 4 (End September)**




## Monthly Review:

-  Assess fall harvest progress (Q)
-  Plan October activities (Q)
-  Document successful fall varieties (Q)




## OCTOBER: "FINAL HARVEST MONTH"

### Week 1 (Early October)

#### Major Harvest:




-  Harvest remaining root vegetables (M)
-  Final tomato harvest (green tomatoes) (Q)
-  Harvest and cure winter squash (M)

#### Garden Cleanup:




-  Remove finished plants (M)
-  Add organic matter to beds (M)
-  Plant spring bulbs (Q)

### Week 2 (Mid-October)

#### Storage Preparation:



-  Organize root cellar/storage area (M)
-  Store winter squash properly (Q)
-  Finish apple preservation (M)

#### Fall Planting:

-  Plant trees and shrubs (M)
-  Seed spring wildflowers (Q)
-  Plant spring-blooming bulbs (Q)

### Week 3 (Late October)

#### Winterization Begins:

-  Mulch perennial beds heavily (M)
-  Drain and store hoses (Q)

- ● Cover tender plants (Q)

### **Planning Ahead:**

- ● Plan next year's garden improvements (Q)
- ● Order seed catalogs (Q)
- ● Begin next year's garden design (Q)

### **Week 4 (End October)**

#### **Final Preparations:**

- ● Complete garden cleanup (M)
- ● Store garden tools properly (Q)
- ● Inventory year's accomplishments (Q)

## **NOVEMBER: "COMPLETION MONTH"**

### **Week 1 (Early November)**

#### **Final Harvest:**

- ● Harvest last cold-hardy vegetables (Q)
- ● Gather remaining herbs (Q)
- ● Cut back perennials (Q)

#### **Winterization:**

- ● Protect tender plants from frost (M)
- ● Insulate water systems (Q)
- ● Store seasonal equipment (M)

### **Week 2 (Mid-November)**

#### **Indoor Setup:**

- ● Set up indoor growing systems (M)
- ● Start sprouting and microgreens (Q)
- ● Plan indoor herb garden (Q)

#### **Tool Maintenance:**

- ● Clean and oil all tools (M)

- ● Sharpen cutting tools (Q)
- ● Organize tool storage (Q)

### **Week 3 (Late November)**

#### **Planning Focus:**

- ● Review year's garden records (Q)
- ● Plan next year's varieties (Q)
- ● Budget for next year's supplies (Q)

#### **Preservation Complete:**

- ● Final inventory of preserved foods (Q)
- ● Organize storage areas (Q)
- ● Plan preservation improvements (Q)

### **Week 4 (End November)**

#### **Gratitude & Reflection:**

- ● Document year's successes (Q)
- ● Plan holiday meals from preserved foods (Q)
- ● Share abundance with community (Q)

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## **WINTER TASKS (DECEMBER - FEBRUARY)**

### **DECEMBER: "PLANNING & REFLECTION MONTH"**

#### **Week 1 (Early December)**

##### **Holiday Preparations:**

- ● Create gifts from preserved foods (M)
- ● Plan holiday meals using homestead foods (Q)
- ● Decorate with natural materials (Q)




##### **Indoor Growing:**

- ● Maintain indoor herb systems (Q)
- ● Start microgreen production (Q)




-  Plan windowsill gardens (Q)

## **Week 2 (Mid-December)**

### **Year-End Review:**




-  Complete garden journal entries (Q)
-  Calculate year's food production (Q)
-  Assess budget and expenses (Q)

### **Skill Development:**

-  Plan learning goals for next year (Q)
-  Research new techniques (Q)
-  Connect with other homesteaders (Q)




## **Week 3 (Late December)**

### **Next Year Planning:**

-  Design next year's garden layout (M)
-  Select varieties for next year (Q)
-  Plan infrastructure improvements (Q)

## **Week 4 (End December)**




### **Goal Setting:**

-  Set realistic goals for next year (Q)
-  Plan major projects (Q)
-  Create vision board for homestead (Q)




## **JANUARY: "DEEP PLANNING MONTH"**

### **Week 1 (Early January)**

#### **Seed Orders:**




-  Order seeds for next growing season (Q)
-  Plan seed starting schedule (Q)
-  Inventory existing seeds (Q)

#### **Equipment Planning:**




-  Plan equipment purchases (Q)
-  Research new tools and techniques (Q)
-  Budget for improvements (Q)

## **Week 2 (Mid-January)**

### **Learning Focus:**




-  Take online courses or workshops (M)
-  Read homesteading books (Q)
-  Connect with local experts (Q)

### **System Development:**

-  Improve record-keeping systems (Q)
-  Plan efficiency improvements (Q)
-  Design better workflows (Q)




## **Week 3 (Late January)**

### **Indoor Projects:**

-  Maintain indoor growing systems (Q)
-  Start planning seed starting setup (M)
-  Organize seeds and supplies (Q)

## **Week 4 (End January)**



### **Preparation Begins:**

-  Prepare seed starting equipment (M)
-  Plan early spring tasks (Q)
-  Begin countdown to growing season (Q)

## **FEBRUARY: "PREPARATION MONTH"**




### **Week 1 (Early February)**

#### **Seed Starting Prep:**

-  Set up seed starting area (M)
-  Test seed starting equipment (Q)




-  Order seed starting supplies (Q)

### **Planning Finalization:**




-  Finalize garden plan (Q)
-  Create planting calendar (Q)
-  Plan crop rotation (Q)

### **Week 2 (Mid-February)**

#### **Early Seed Starting:**




-  Start slow-growing varieties (onions, celery) (Q)
-  Begin herb seed starting (Q)
-  Test seed germination rates (Q)

#### **Equipment Maintenance:**

-  Service equipment before season (M)
-  Sharpen and repair tools (Q)
-  Order replacement supplies (Q)




### **Week 3 (Late February)**

#### **Spring Preparation:**

-  Plan spring soil amendments (Q)
-  Schedule equipment delivery (Q)
-  Plan early spring projects (Q)

### **Week 4 (End February)**

#### **Ready for Spring:**

-  Review and adjust spring plans (Q)
  -  Prepare for March activities (Q)
  -  Build excitement for new season! (Q)
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# MONTHLY TASK SUMMARY CHARTS

## Print-and-Post Quick Reference

### SPRING FOCUS:

- March: Plan & Prepare
- April: Plant Cool Crops
- May: Plant Warm Crops

### SUMMER FOCUS:

- June: Early Harvest
- July: Peak Production
- August: Preservation Marathon

### FALL FOCUS:

- September: Transition & Harvest
- October: Final Harvest
- November: Complete & Store

### WINTER FOCUS:

- December: Reflect & Plan
- January: Deep Planning
- February: Prepare for Spring

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## CUSTOMIZATION WORKSHEET

**Your Climate Zone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **First Frost Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Last Frost Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Growing Season Length:** \_\_\_\_\_ days

### Adjustments for Your Area:

- Spring tasks: \_\_\_\_\_ weeks earlier/later
- Fall tasks: \_\_\_\_\_ weeks earlier/later
- Special considerations: \_\_\_\_\_

### Your Priority Focus Areas:

- ☐ Vegetable gardening
  - ☐ Fruit production
  - ☐ Herb growing
  - ☐ Livestock care
  - ☐ Food preservation
  - ☐ Flowers/landscaping
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*Print this calendar and customize it for your specific climate and goals. Check off tasks as you complete them and make notes about timing adjustments for your area.*