

What's Growing On Updates

Funding & Support for Local Gardens

The NLR Community Garden Program provides seasonal funding each spring and fall to support both new and existing community gardens. Returning gardens can receive up to \$5,000 annually for materials, tools, and expenses, while gardens new to our program are eligible for \$1,500 to help them get started.

Beyond funding, participating gardens gain access to free mulch, compost, seeds, plants, educational resources, hands-on assistance, and social media promotion. Applications are reviewed twice a year by the Garden Advisory Committee.

This is a great opportunity to grow fresh, local food and strengthen your community. Apply today!

FALL 2025 FUNDING APPLICATION DUE BETWEEN DEC. 16, 2024 - JUNE 15, 2025

NEW GARDENS ELIGIBLE FOR UP TO \$1500
RETURNING GARDENS ELIGIBLE UP TO \$5000



Point your camera
phone here!

STEP 1: Scan the QR Code to review the application located at the bottom of our website

STEP 2: Complete application and compile all required documents

STEP 3: Submit everything to
NLRNeighborhoodServ@nlr.ar.gov

For assistance with your application,
contact RKelly@nlr.ar.gov or
NLRNeighborhoodServ@nlr.ar.gov
501-351-0184



@nlrcommunitygardens



youtube.com/c/cityofnlr



North Little Rock Neighborhood Services

NLR COMMUNITY GARDEN PROGRAM

GARDEN MANAGER MEETINGS

NEW Meeting Location!

MARCH 26
APRIL 23
MAY 28

NEW Meeting Location!

NORTH HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CENTER
4801 ALLEN ST.
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

OUR GARDEN MANAGER MEETINGS ARE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR NLR COMMUNITY GARDEN MANAGERS, VOLUNTEERS, AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO COME TOGETHER, EXCHANGE RESOURCES, CELEBRATE SUCCESSES, ADDRESS CHALLENGES, AND STAY CONNECTED WITH OUR PROGRAM. THESE MEETINGS CREATE A COLLABORATIVE SPACE WHERE LOCAL GARDENERS CAN SHARE KNOWLEDGE, ASK QUESTIONS, AND SUPPORT EACH OTHER. BEST OF ALL, THEY'RE FREE AND OPEN TO EVERYONE—COME JOIN US.

MEETINGS TAKE PLACE ON THE 4TH WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH (JANUARY–OCTOBER) AND THE 3RD WEDNESDAY IN NOVEMBER. NO MEETING IN DECEMBER.

Exciting News for Our Community Gardens!

We're thrilled to announce that 9 Community Garden applications for Spring funding have been approved, securing over \$33,000 in support! This marks one of the biggest funding rounds in our program's history! Adding to the excitement, Ward 2 is launching several brand-new gardens built entirely from scratch.

New Gardens:

The Tea House – 1118 E. Washington

The Urban Sol – 803 Water Street

JOIN US IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

With over 18 active community gardens in North Little Rock, our garden managers are always looking for assistance. Whether you're an experienced gardener or just starting out, we invite you to get involved!

VOLUNTEER

SIGN-UP



nlr.ar.gov/communitygardens

March Planting Guide for Zone 8:

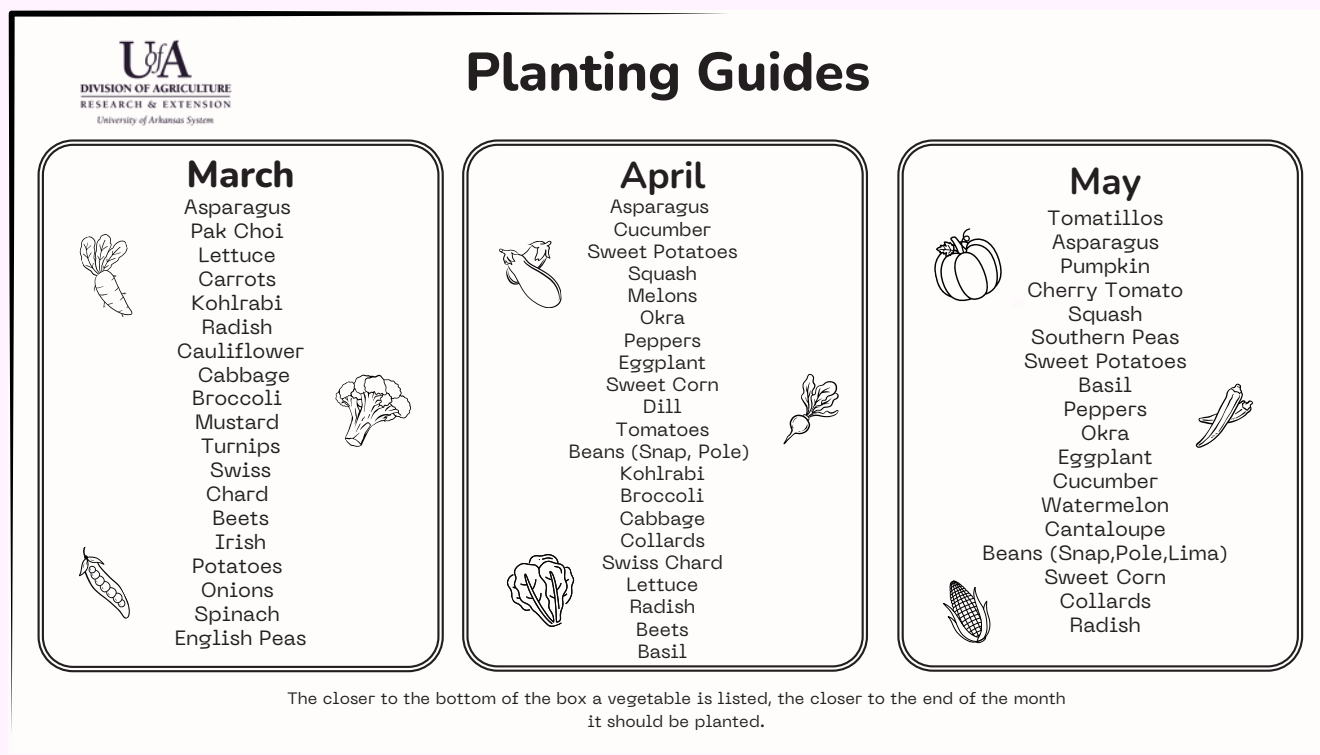
Spring is just around the corner, making March a key time to get your garden growing! In Zone 8, this is the perfect month to plant cool-season crops outdoors and start warm-season vegetables indoors for transplanting in April and May.

Direct Sow (Plant Outdoors) in March:

Plant these hardy vegetables directly in your garden.

- ✓ Leafy Greens – Lettuce, Spinach, Swiss Chard, Mustard Greens, Collard Greens
- ✓ Root Vegetables – Carrots, Beets, Radishes, Turnips
- ✓ Brassicas – Cabbage, Broccoli, Cauliflower, Kohlrabi
- ✓ Other Cool-Season Crops – English Peas, Snap Peas, Irish Potatoes, Onions, Asparagus

[Click here for the AR Grown Fruit & Vegetable Harvest Calendar](#)



Start These Seeds Indoors for April/May Planting:

By planning ahead and starting seeds indoors at the right time, you'll set yourself up for a thriving spring and summer garden. Start warm-season crops indoors and transplant them after the last frost, typically March 28 – April 5 in Central Arkansas. Since frost dates vary, many gardeners wait until mid-April to plant tender crops like tomatoes, peppers, and melons. Check local forecasts for frost warnings before transplanting.

8–10 Weeks Before Last Frost (Start now!)

- Peppers (Bell, Jalapeño, Banana)
- Eggplants (Black Beauty, Ichiban)

6–8 Weeks Before Last Frost (Early March)

- Tomatoes (Early Girl, Brandywine, Roma)
- Herbs (Basil, Oregano, Thyme, Parsley)
- Cabbage (Savoy, Green)
- Broccoli (Calabrese, Green Magic)
- Brussels Sprouts (Long Island, Jade Cross)
- Cauliflower (Snowball, Purple Cape)

4–6 Weeks Before Last Frost (Direct sow Mid-March to early April)

- Melons (Sugar Baby Watermelon, Hale's Best Cantaloupe)

3–4 Weeks Before Last Frost (Direct sow late March to early April)

- Cucumbers (Marketmore, Lemon Cucumber)



Companion planting is a time-tested gardening technique that enhances plant health, boosts yields, and naturally deters pests by strategically pairing plants that support each other's growth. By strategically placing certain plants next to each other, you can create a more productive and resilient garden while reducing the need for chemical interventions.

Benefits of Companion Planting

1. Natural Pest Control

Some plants emit scents or compounds that repel common garden pests. For example, marigolds help deter nematodes and aphids, while basil planted near tomatoes can keep hornworms at bay.

2. Improved Growth and Flavor

Certain plant pairings enhance each other's growth by improving soil nutrients or providing beneficial shade. For instance, planting basil near tomatoes not only repels pests but also enhances the tomatoes' flavor.

3. Efficient Use of Space

Tall plants can provide shade for sun-sensitive crops, while ground-cover plants help retain soil moisture and suppress weeds. A classic example is the Three Sisters method used by Indigenous peoples, where corn provides a structure for beans to climb, and squash spreads along the ground to reduce weeds.

4. Enhanced Soil Health

Some plants, like legumes, fix nitrogen in the soil, enriching it for neighboring crops. This reduces the need for synthetic fertilizers and promotes sustainable gardening.



A thriving companion garden featuring tomatoes, chives, flowers, spinach, and beets—working together to enhance growth, deter pests, and create a balanced ecosystem.

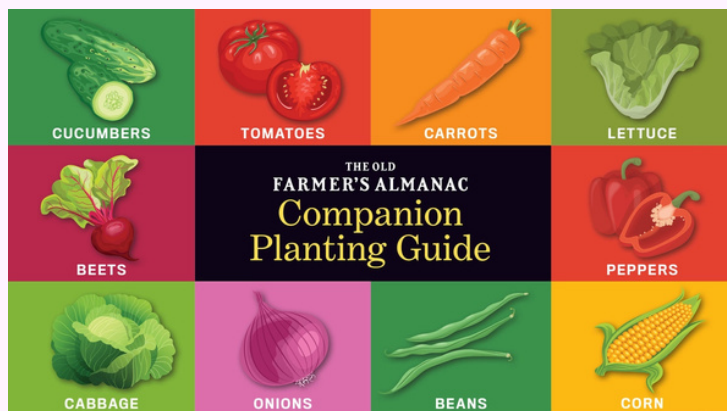
5. Increased Biodiversity

A diverse garden attracts beneficial insects, such as pollinators and predatory insects that keep pest populations in check. Flowers like calendula and alyssum can draw in pollinators, boosting the yield of fruiting plants.

Popular Companion Planting Pairings

- Tomatoes + Basil – Enhances flavor and repels pests.
- Carrots + Onions – Onions deter carrot flies.
- Cabbage + Dill – Dill attracts predatory wasps that feed on cabbage worms.
- Beans + Corn + Squash – A traditional combination that benefits all three plants.

By embracing companion planting, you can cultivate a thriving, eco-friendly garden that works with nature rather than against it. Give it a try this season and experience the benefits firsthand!



[Click here for a FREE Companion Planting Guide](#)



nlr.ar.gov/communitygardens

Growing Urban Farmers Field Day: Certified Naturally Grown Program (FREE)

5:30–7:00 Wednesday, March 12

St. Joseph Farmstead 6800 Camp Robinson Rd., NLR

Learn from experienced farmers who participate in CNG, how it can benefit you to join CNG or just learn about the practices and how the program works.

[More details here.](#)

Grow Your Own Groceries: Succession Planting

12:00–1:00 Thursday, March 13 (FREE)

Online Zoom Class: You will learn about succession planting for continuous vegetable harvests.

[Zoom Link: Click here](#)

Laman Library Garden Fest (FREE)

9:00–4:00 Saturday, March 15

Join us for a free day of discovery with gardening, plant, and art vendors, plus workshops and demos from Central Arkansas Beekeepers, Central Arkansas Naturalists, Raptor Rehab, and more! [More details here.](#)

Feast of St. Joseph Celebration (Lunch \$10)

11:00 Saturday, March 22

St. Joseph Altar will be set up to accept nonperishable food items followed by a Blessing of the Gardens to welcome the abundance spring brings. At 12 noon, a spaghetti lunch will be served including salad, bread, & dessert. [More details here.](#)

Junior Naturalist Spring Break Camp (\$250 per student, scholarships available)

9:00–4:00 Mon.–Fri., March 24–28

Age range for this camp is kids 7–10 years old. Campers will be engaged in activities each day on multiple subjects. Topics include everything about nature from animals, birds, insects, amphibians, to habitats, geology, ecology, conservation and outdoor safety. [More details here.](#)

CAMN Eastern Bluebird Workshop (Supplies \$10)

10:00–12:00 Saturday, March 29

Register at Pinnacle Mt State Park Visitor Center 501–868–5806. Learn about Eastern Bluebirds and build your own bird box to take home! Fun for all ages. \$10 per box, 1 box per household. [More details here.](#)

April

Growing Urban Farmers – How to Build a Hoop House at WSBZ Farms

10:00–3:00 Wednesday & Thurs. April 2 & 3

1:00–4:00 Friday, April 4

5310 Bennie Barnes Rd, Little Rock, AR 72206

[More details here.](#)

Growing Urban Farmers Meet-Up

5:30–7:00 Wednesday, April 2 (FREE)

St. Joseph Farmstead 6800 Camp Robinson Rd., NLR.

[More details here.](#)

Back 5 Fields Plant Sale

10:00–2:00 Saturday, April 5

Need some plants for your garden? Bigger & Better This Year – We've already started almost twice as many tomato plants this year and we'll be starting peppers, squash, cucumbers, melons & more soon! Money raised will help provide employment opportunities for unsheltered workers on the farm. [More details here.](#)

Bernice Garden Sat. Shop Plant Sale

10:00–2:00 Saturday, April 5

Shop local plants from local vendors! [More details here.](#)

Grow Your Own Groceries: Container Vegetable Gardening (FREE)

12:00–1:00 Thursday, April 10

Online Zoom Class: You will learn how to successfully grow vegetables in containers.

[Zoom Link: Click here](#)

Earth Day Celebration – St. Joseph Farmstead

10:00–3:00 Saturday, April 26 (FREE)

Enjoy free trees, seeds, and plants, explore nature-inspired vendors, and visit educational booths. Plus, don't miss the fresh, local products at the SJ Farm Stand. [More details here.](#)

Great NLR Clean-Up (FREE)

8:30–11:00 Saturday, April 26

Teams can sign up at [KNLRB.org](https://www.knlrb.org) and clean up an area then we will all meet for a celebration party at 11:30 at St Joseph Farmstead at 6800 Camp Robinson Rd., NLR. [More details here.](#)

