



Spring 2023 Newsletter

Board of Directors

Chair: L. Fernando González

Vice Chair: Amanda Lancaster

Registrar: Dinesh Katuru

Water Director: Sonja Vanek

Help wanted!

We are looking to fulfil the following roles for the 2023 season:

- **Treasurer:** Help with budget and financial statements.
- **Maintenance Director:** Oversee garden maintenance and inventory.
- **Publicity Director:** Manage our website, social media and newsletter.

Volunteers

Volunteers are needed for various tasks, including:

- Spring/Fall cleanup
- Plot patrol
- Filling potholes
- Food bank deliveries

Upcoming events

APRIL 23 Annual General Meeting

Join us for our Annual General Meeting (AGM) and seed exchange at the Tanglewood Community Centre on 30 Woodfield Drive. If you would like to add any items to the agenda, please send us an email.

APRIL 29 Spring cleanup

As with every year, we'll kick off the season with a cleaning party. Tasks include pruning trees, staking plots, painting tools, picking up garbage and rocks. Snacks and cleaning supplies will be provided.

MAY 3 / 7 Orientation sessions

We will be holding two orientation sessions this Spring: Wednesday, May 3rd at 6:00 PM and Sunday, May 7th at 1:00 PM. Whether you are a new gardener or are looking for a refresher, join us for a tour of the grounds, best practices and Q&A. We will meet at the tool shed.

JUNE 17 Garden party

The garden is an ideal place for people in the community, young and old, to gather, chat, and get to know one another, building ties to make a strong and healthy community. Join our Garden Party on Saturday June 17th

Everyone is welcome to volunteer!

Community involvement hours for students are available. Please email us if you are interested in joining our volunteer crew.

Workshops

Gardening workshops are a great way to learn from one another and share your green thumb.

NAGA can help facilitate workshops for anyone interested in either learning or teaching about gardening topics.

Some ideas for workshops:

- Garden planning
- Starting seeds
- Weed control
- Composting
- Canning
- Fermenting
- Anything else!!

If you are interested in attending a workshop, or you would like to teach a workshop yourself on any topic, please send us an email.

at 3:00 PM for music, games, crafts, and snacks. We will also have a seedling exchange table. Come get to know your fellow NAGA gardeners!

Compost and Straw

We are planning to have compost delivered from the City of Ottawa again this year. We are also having bales of straw delivered to the garden for \$8 each (\$8.25 if paying with plastic). Dates and times will be emailed and posted on the bulletin board at the garden.



Food Bank

NAGA has been collecting food for the Debra Dynes house for the past several years. Debra Dynes family house is a multiservice community resource that over 100 people access per day. If you'd like to learn more, visit their website at debradynes.ncf.ca.

Consider 'growing a row' to donate in this year's garden plot! Starting mid-season, there will be a spot in the shed to leave your donations.

A year in review

Letter from the Chair

Hey gardeners! Welcome to the 2023 season at the NAGA gardens.

If we have not yet met, nice to meet you! I'm Fernando. I joined the garden last year with plot A65 (come say Hi! ☺). Since then I have been volunteering as Vice Chair of the NAGA Board of Directors, under the excellent tutelage of Amanda Lancaster.

This year I am honoured to serve as Chair for the season. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Amanda for her continuous leadership as Chair and dedication to the gardens for the past five years. Thanks to her our garden is thriving and I am very grateful for her support and friendship. Amanda will continue to support NAGA as Vice Chair as she focuses on building her new farm (vegheadfarm.ca). Thanks for everything you do Amanda!



Last year started off with lots of rain which made watering easy. We were all surprised in late May with the "Derecho" wind storm, which ripped away seedlings, plants and even our maple tree over the picnic area. Luckily it was early enough in the season to replant and we still had a great harvest! The fallen tree has now been removed, and we are working on having a new one planted.

Thank you to all of the gardeners who volunteered their time at cleanups, staking plots, maintenance, food bank donations, on the board of directors and doing other tasks. The garden is possible because of you!

I look forward to working together with all of you for an amazing 2023 season.

Kind regards,

L. Fernando González
Chair

Pictures from our members







For more pictures and to connect with other members, check out our [Facebook group!](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/261282425387342>

<http://nepeanallotmentgarden.yolasite.com> nagagardens@gmail.com
P.O. Box 65073 Merivale P.O., Ottawa ON K2G 5Y3

Reminders

Some friendly reminders to our members for the season:

Plant inside the lines

Please don't plant anything outside your plot line, keep pathways around your garden clear for grass cutting.

Drive only on the road

Make sure you stay on the road marked in the map and at a safe distance from the garden plots. Driving too closely between plots has caused several accidents including two broken water pipes.

No rocks on the grass

Rocks and trash can damage the mower and cause a dangerous situation for the mower driver. If you want to remove rocks from your garden please take them away with you.

Keep our garden beautiful

Let's all work together to make our garden look nice for our neighbours and ourselves. Please do your best to keep your plots tidy and weed-free. Avoid using orange snow fencing; instead use green, grey or wire fencing. Take your trash and compost home regularly.

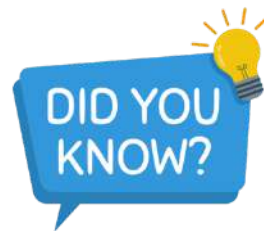
Ticks

Tick populations are on the rise in and around the city of Ottawa. Here are some steps you can take to protect yourself from ticks:

- When walking in brush, woods, or tall grass, wear light coloured clothing, long pants and long-sleeved shirts. Tuck your pants into your socks and your shirt into your pants.
- Wear insect repellent containing 30% DEET or 20% icaridin. Remember to spray hats and footwear.
- Put your clothing in the dryer for 20 minutes as soon as you get home.
- Take a shower and check all your nooks and crannies.

Taking vacation?

If you are going on vacation or have other problems that prevent you from working in your garden, let us know. If you're unable to find somebody to help you with your garden, we may be able to connect you with a fellow gardener or volunteer.



The Nepean community gardens were created in 1991. We are one of the largest community gardening sites in Ottawa, with over 200 plots and almost 150 gardeners!



Planting calendar

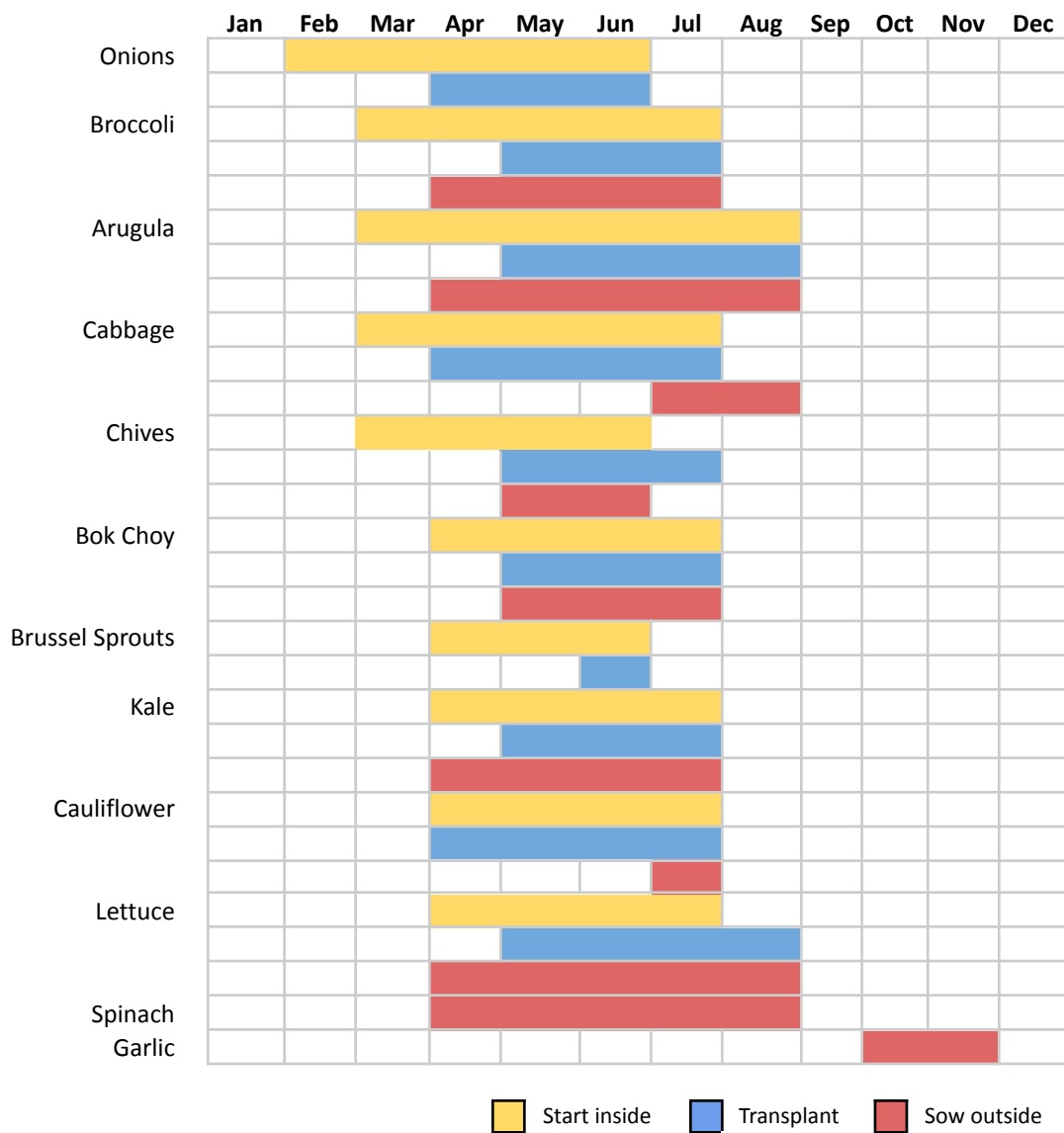


Sprint frost
May 18th

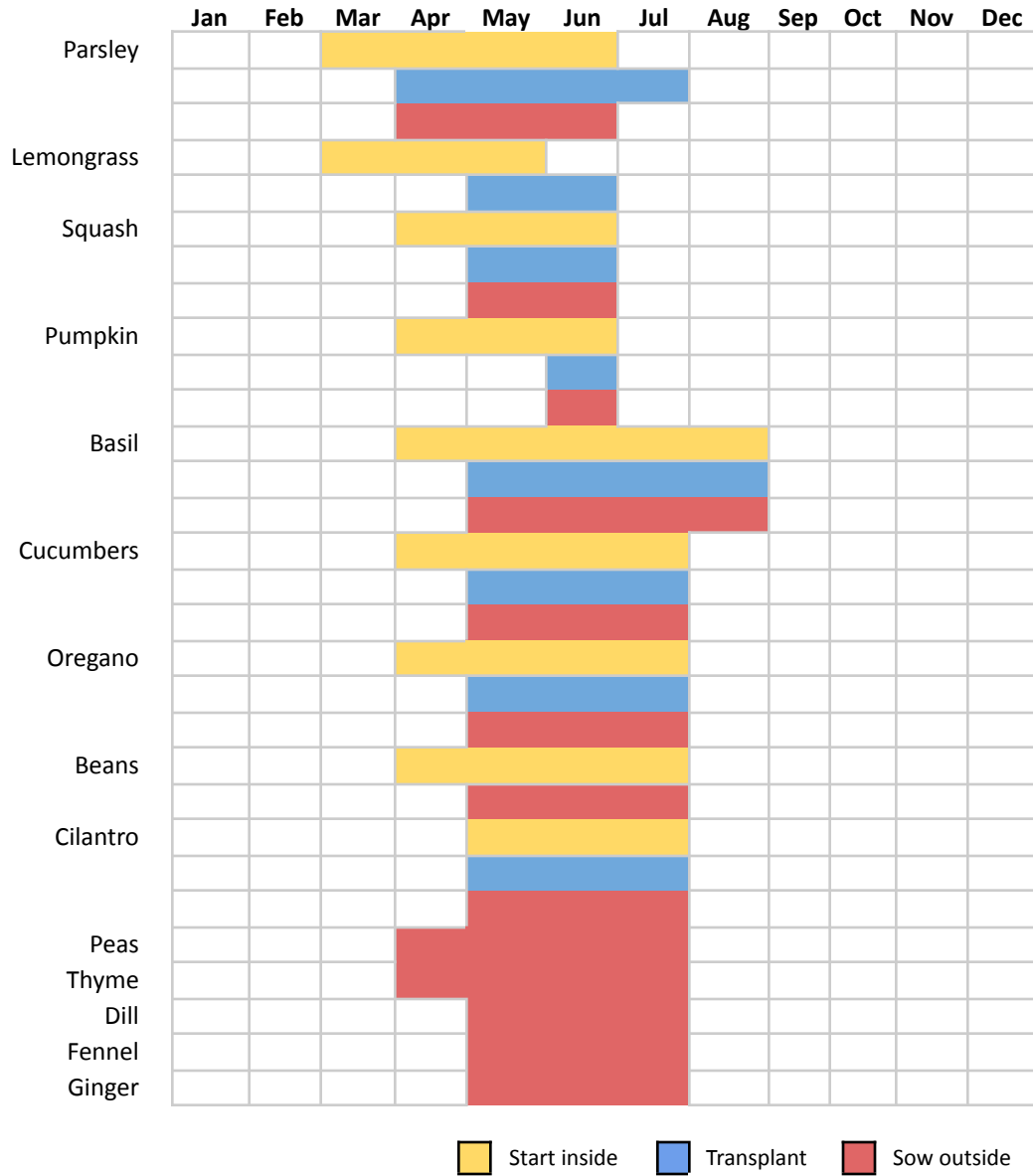


Fall frost
September 16th

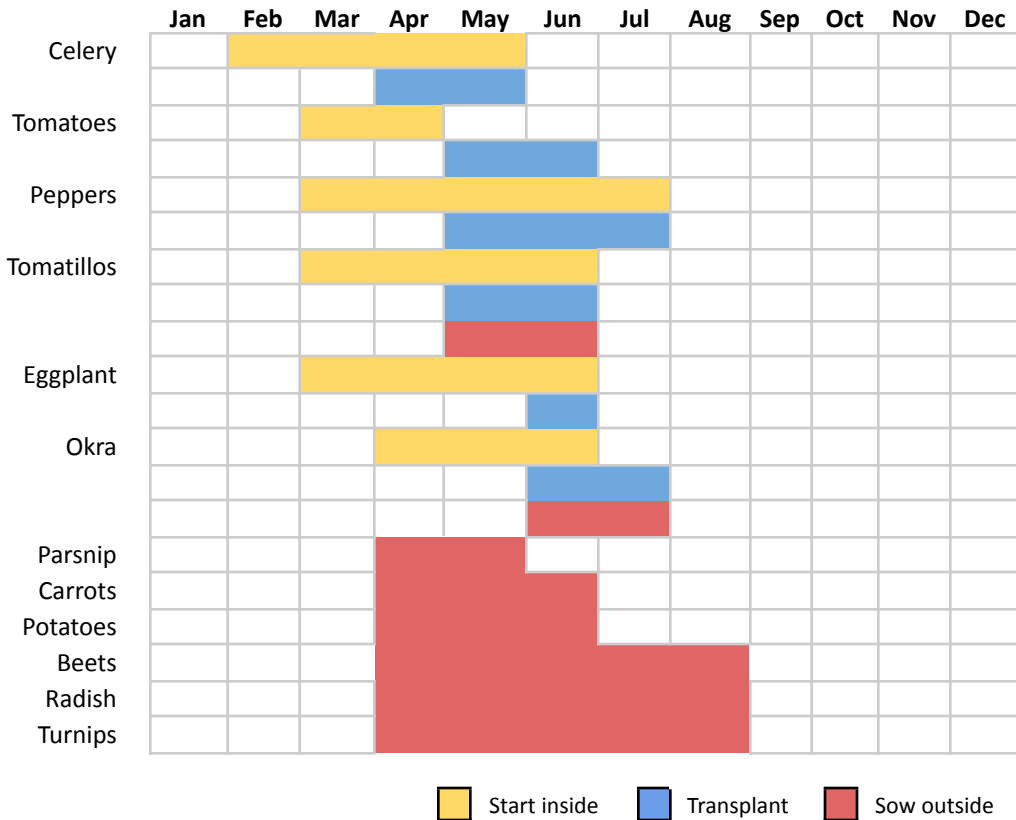
Greens, cole crops and alliums



Herbs, legumes and squashes



Nightshades, roots and other vegetables



Thank you for reading. For feedback on this newsletter or if you would like to contribute to the next issue, please send us an email. We would love to hear from you.

Have a great gardening season!

