

Quick Victory Plants



The following crops are “quick victories” for beginner gardeners. For school gardeners, they fit well into the school year. Selected for short harvest times and low maintenance, the crops below are good choices for gardeners who are just getting started.

Radish

Radishes can be harvested about a month after planting, and are cold hardy so can be planted early in the Spring, or in late Summer/early Fall. The radish is also a great value, as all parts of the radish are edible root, leaves, stem, and flowers. Radishes come in lots of fun varieties (Easter Egg, Watermelon, Nero) which can get students excited about planting and pulling them!

- Planting season: Early spring to late fall
- Days to Maturity: As short as 30 days for some varieties. Check your seed packet for exact dates, as some varieties have much longer periods to maturity.
- Planting Info: Plant seeds about 1" apart and 1/2" deep, starting in early Spring and throughout the season.

Baby greens

Baby greens are a quick, delicious, and nutritious crop. With some varieties ready to harvest after just 28 days, you may be able to enjoy multiple harvests before the school year is over, or before Winter sets in for a Fall planting.

- Season: Plant in Spring and Fall
- Days to Maturity: As short as 28 days for some varieties.
- Planting Info: Disperse seeds evenly over the surface of your prepared bed. Cover with a light layer of soil or compost. Water lightly immediately!



Sprouts and Microgreens

A fun, fast harvest for indoors or out! Plant pea, sunflower, nasturtium, corn seeds, and any types of greens. Harvest the baby shoots to sprinkle on a stir fry, add to sandwich or smoothie, or mixed into a delicious salad!

- Planting season: Spring through Fall, or year-round indoors (with supplemental light if necessary)
- Days to maturity: 7-28 days, depending on type of seed
- Planting Info: Soak seeds for 8 hours before planting to jump start germination. Sow seeds in shallow tray on top of a wet paper towel or in shallow tray of dirt, and regularly water with spray bottle.

Edible Flowers

Flowers like borage, nasturtium, and pansies are all good candidates. Another benefit: these flowers in your garden will attract pollinators and other beneficial insects.

- Planting season: Spring
- Days to maturity: depends on varieties
- Planting info: disperse seeds evenly over the surface of your bed or container, then sprinkle a layer of soil on top. Gently water.

Wildflowers

A bed of low-maintenance wildflowers is a wonderful addition to any garden! These flowers attract bees, ladybugs, and other beneficial insects, providing both food and shelter. Including annual and perennial species native and/or naturalized to the northeast United States, wildflower mixes are adapted to the New York climate and require less maintenance than many edible crops. Wildflower plantings typically need no extra fertilizer and little or no supplemental watering after germination.

- Planting season: Spring
- Days to maturity: depends on varieties
- Planting info: Wildflower mixes are often a combination of perennials (which will come back year after year) and annuals which, if left to flower and go to seed, will "self seed" and come back again the next year. To plant, disperse seeds evenly over the surface of your bed or container, then sprinkle a layer of soil on top. Gently water.

