



FROM THE FILES OF THE DIRT DIVA DIARIES
Succession Planting Planner

Stagger your plantings — harvest something every week from spring through fall

Ivy says: "The difference between a garden that gives you one big harvest and a garden that feeds you all season is succession planting — and it's embarrassingly simple. Instead of planting 20 lettuce plants on one day, you plant 5 now, 5 in two weeks, 5 two weeks after that. Boom: fresh lettuce for three months instead of one overwhelming week."

What It Is

Planting the same crop in small batches 2-3 weeks apart instead of all at once. Each batch matures at a different time, giving you a steady harvest stream rather than one big glut.

What It Solves

"I had 40 radishes ready on Tuesday and gave them to the neighbors." Succession planting means you harvest 8-10 radishes every week for 6 weeks instead of 40 all at once.

The Two-Week Rule

For most cool-season crops, a new sowing every 2-3 weeks is the sweet spot. For warm-season crops like beans, every 3-4 weeks. Radishes can go every 10 days in peak season.

BEST CROPS FOR SUCCESSION PLANTING

CROP	INTERVAL BETWEEN SOWINGS	DAYS TO HARVEST	SEASON	SUCCESSION STRATEGY
Radishes	Every 10-14 days	25-30 days	Spring & Fall	The ultimate succession crop — 3 containers rotating gives you radishes every week April through June and again Sept-Oct
Lettuce / Salad Mix	Every 2-3 weeks	30-45 days	Spring, Fall	Keep 2-3 containers at different stages. Replace each container when it bolts. Unlimited salad greens spring and fall.
Spinach	Every 2-3 weeks	40-50 days	Spring, Fall	Plant early spring and again in late summer. Stop succession in summer heat — it will bolt regardless.
Arugula	Every 2 weeks	25-40 days	Spring, Fall	Fast-growing, quick to bolt in heat. Succession is especially valuable — keeps you ahead of bolting.
Bush Beans	Every 3-4 weeks	50-60 days	Summer	First sowing after last frost, then 2-3 more sowings through midsummer. Stop 10-12 weeks before first fall frost.
Cilantro	Every 2-3 weeks	45-70 days	Spring, Fall	Bolts incredibly fast in heat. Succession is the only way to have cilantro reliably. Stop in peak summer.
Basil	Every 3-4 weeks	30-45 days	Summer	Less critical than cilantro (pinching prevents bolting), but a new plant every month keeps flavor fresh and production high.
Kale / Chard	Every 4-6 weeks	55-70 days	Spring-Fall	Harvest leaves continuously from one plant for months. Succession less critical but useful for rotating container soil.

MONTH-BY-MONTH SUCCESSION CALENDAR (TEMPERATE ZONES 5-7 · ADJUST ±2 WEEKS FOR YOUR ZONE)

<p>March <i>Early Spring</i></p> <p>SOW Lettuce Sowing #1 — indoors or under cover</p> <p>SOW Spinach Direct sow as soon as ground workable</p> <p>SOW Radishes Sowing #1 — your first quick win</p> <p>SOW Arugula Cold-tolerant, direct sow</p>	<p>April <i>Mid Spring</i></p> <p>HARVEST Radishes #1 ready! Sow #2 same container</p> <p>SOW Lettuce Sowing #2 (2 wks after #1)</p> <p>HARVEST Arugula First cut; sow #2 now</p> <p>SOW Cilantro Sowing #1</p>	<p>May <i>Late Spring</i></p> <p>PLANT Tomatoes After last frost date</p> <p>PLANT Peppers After last frost date</p> <p>SOW Beans Sowing #1 — direct sow</p> <p>HARVEST Lettuce #1 ready; sow #3 for late spring</p> <p>SOW Cilantro Sowing #2 (2-3 wks after #1)</p>	<p>June <i>Early Summer</i></p> <p>SOW Beans Sowing #2 (3 wks after #1)</p> <p>SOW Cucumbers Sowing #1 — soil warm now</p> <p>SOW Basil Sowing #1 or buy transplants</p> <p>HARVEST Lettuce Pause — too hot; resume Aug</p>
<p>July <i>Mid Summer</i></p> <p>SOW Beans Sowing #3 — last warm-season sowing</p> <p>HARVEST Tomatoes Cherry tomatoes now; slicers 2-4 more wks</p> <p>SOW Cucumbers Sowing #2 (4 wks after #1)</p> <p>SOW Basil Sowing #2 (fresh plant = better flavor)</p>	<p>August <i>Late Summer</i></p> <p>SOW Lettuce Sowing #4 — resume for fall harvest</p> <p>SOW Spinach Sowing #2 — fall crop begins</p> <p>SOW Arugula Sowing #3 — fall crop</p> <p>SOW Kale Start fall/winter kale now</p>	<p>September <i>Early Fall</i></p> <p>HARVEST Lettuce Fall salads begin; sow #5</p> <p>SOW Radishes Sowing #4 — fall radish season begins</p> <p>SOW Cilantro Sowing #3 — great fall herb</p> <p>HARVEST Tomatoes Final harvests; pick green before frost</p>	<p>October <i>Mid Fall</i></p> <p>HARVEST Radishes Last sowing #5 before frost</p> <p>HARVEST Kale Better flavor after first frost</p> <p>HARVEST Lettuce Keep harvesting until hard frost</p> <p>HARVEST All warm season Harvest everything before first frost date</p>

Dirt Diva's #1 Rule: Grow Your Own Way!



FROM THE FILES OF THE DIRT DIVA DIARIES

My Personal Succession Planner

Fill in your own planting dates and track every sowing through harvest

MY GROWING ZONE INFO

MY ZONE _____	LAST SPRING FROST _____	FIRST FALL FROST _____	GROWING SEASON LENGTH _____
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MY SUCCESSION PLANTING LOG — CROP BY CROP

CROP	CONTAINER	SOWING #1	SOWING #2	SOWING #3	SOWING #4	NOTES / OBSERVATIONS
Lettuce						
Spinach						
Arugula						
Radishes						
Cilantro						
Bush Beans				—	—	
Basil				—	—	
Kale / Chard			—	—	—	

◆ Ivy's Succession Rules

- ◆ When sowing #1 is half-harvested, sow #2. Don't wait until it's all gone.
- ◆ Keep a small notebook or use your phone — track sowing dates or you'll lose track
- ◆ The same container can usually be replanted 2-3 times per season if you refresh soil
- ◆ Cool-season crops bolt in heat — that's not failure, that's biology. Just resow in fall.
- ◆ Succession planting radishes and lettuce together means you always have something to harvest
- ◆ If you forget to sow #2 on time — just sow it now. Getting back on track beats giving up.

📝 My Season Notes

What I'm growing this season:
