

University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources  
UC Master Gardener Program of Alameda County



## School Garden Tips: May

- **Garden Maintenance:** Amend the soil and compost spent plants as the cooler season spring plants die off. If the garden won't be maintained over the summer, continue to keep up with weeds, water soil, and mulch (if available) before leaving.
- **Planting Guide** If the garden will be watered and weeded over the summer, continue plant warm season crops: Eggplants, tomatoes, peppers, melons. Choose long-season varieties (90-100 days) in order to harvest in the first weeks returning to school. Help students thin plantings of carrots and beets.
- **Seeds:** Beans, corn, cucumber, melon, and squash
- **Plants:** If summer watering available: Eggplants, tomatoes, peppers, melons
- **Pest & Disease Alert:** If new seedlings are showing signs of insect damage, you may want to protect them with a [protective cloth](#) until they are large enough to better tolerate damage. Watch for striped and spotted [cucumber beetles](#) and continued vigilance for [slug damage](#).

It's time to start thinking about what will happen in your garden over the summer. If your school campus will be closed for the summer, you have a few options for your garden space: 1) get a family, or families, to sign up to care for the garden over the summer, with the incentive of getting the summer produce; OR 2) Plant a cover crop in May so that it is established before your turn off the water in June (this means losing a few weeks of garden time with students), OR 3) Turning under your annual plants and adding a 6 inch layer of mulch to all your beds--they will be ready to plant as soon as school starts in August. If you are at a year round school, you can continue with the above warm season planting tips. See OUSD Summer Learning Garden Checklist for more information.

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School Garden Team