

GROWING PLACES

EARLY SUMMER II

HARVEST | Harvest **bush beans** before you see seeds develop in the pod. Don't let them get too big or they get tough and tasteless.

If you have any **broccoli** left, keep harvesting the small side shoots, but if the plant has stopped producing these, pull it up and toss it in the compost pile to free up a square for replanting.

Harvest older, lower/outer leaves of **chard**, **collards** and **kale** first when they are 8-12 inches; new leaves will grow as long as the center growing tip remains.

Pick slicking **cucumbers** at 6-8 inches long. Pick pickling cukes at 3-4 inches. The more you pick, they more will grow!

Radishes are ready within 3-5 weeks from seed planting. Thin well for a good crop and don't wait too long to pull them up or they'll become bitter. Replant anytime.

Pick **tomatoes** when the color is deep and even. Depending on the variety, this can be orange, red, yellow or even pink! Store at room temperature.

CLEAN | As you harvest, keep your garden clear of plant debris to avoid giving pests and diseases places to hide out.

MULCH | Newspaper, shredded leaves, chemical-free grass clippings, and hay all make great mulch material. Spread a thin layer around your plants, leaving room around the base of the stem.

REPLANT | As you clear out old plants, fill in the extra room with fall plantings of beets, broccoli, kale, spinach, lettuce, cabbages and radishes. If the weather is hot, settle the seeds in a little deeper than usual to keep them cool and take advantage of any shade provided by existing plants. Water seeds well as they're more delicate than mature plants.

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IN THE GP LENDING LIBRARY

From our children's section:

Grandpa's Garden | Stella Fry

The Cat in the Hat's Learning Library: Oh Say Can You Seed? | Bonnie Worth

MORE ON SUMMER HARVESTING

[Organic Gardening: 6 Veggies You Never Knew You Could Pickle](#)