

# Transitioning to Organic: 3-Year Edmonton Garden Plan

A one-page printable guide for Edmonton-area gardeners  
(Average last frost: late May–early June | First frost: September)

## YEAR 1 – FOUNDATION & OBSERVATION

**Goal:** Stop chemical inputs, repair soil, learn your site

### SPRING (APR–MAY)

- Add compost to all beds (2–5 cm)
- Observe drainage, sun, wind patterns
- Direct-seed: peas, spinach, lettuce, radishes, arugula, green onions
- Plant perennial herbs: chives, mint (contained), lemon balm

### EARLY SUMMER (LATE MAY–JUNE)

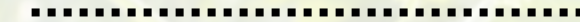
- Transplant: kale, chard, broccoli, cabbage
  - Light mulch after soil warms
  - Use row covers for pests

### MID-SUMMER (JULY–AUG)

- Succession sow lettuce & radishes
- Hand-weed and water deeply
- Observe insects before acting

### FALL (SEPT–OCT)

- Plant garlic
- Leave roots in soil
- Mulch with compost or shredded leaves



## YEAR 3 – BALANCE & SELF-SUFFICIENCY

**Goal:** Let natural systems do most of the work

### SPRING (APR–MAY)

- Minimal soil disturbance
- Compost only where needed
- Direct-seed: carrots, parsnips, beets, greens
- Divide perennials (rhubarb, chives, herbs)

### EARLY SUMMER (LATE MAY–JUNE)

- Transplant demanding crops: tomatoes, peppers, eggplant
- Plant pollinator supports: yarrow, bee balm, echinacea
  - Rotate crop families

### MID-SUMMER (JULY–AUG)

- Let beneficial insects manage pests
- Save seed from strongest plants
- Share surplus harvest

### FALL (SEPT–OCT)

- Assess soil health (dark, crumbly soil)
  - Compost as maintenance only
- Plan next year using rotation notes

## YEAR 2 – DIVERSITY & SOIL LIFE

**Goal:** Strengthen soil biology and plant resilience

### SPRING (APR–MAY)

- Light compost top-up
- Direct-seed: carrots, beets, turnips, dill, cilantro
- Start indoors: tomatoes, peppers, basil
- Plant nitrogen-fixers: peas, beans

### EARLY SUMMER (LATE MAY–JUNE)

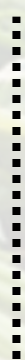
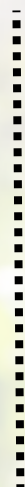
- Transplant: tomatoes, peppers, zucchini, cucumbers
- Interplant flowers: alyssum, calendula, nasturtiums
  - Mulch more heavily

### MID-SUMMER (JULY–AUG)

- Monitor moisture retention
- Harvest regularly
- Spot-treat pests only if severe

### FALL (SEPT–OCT)

- Sow cover crops: fall rye or oats
- Save seed from healthy plants
- Apply leaf mulch



## EDMONTON ORGANIC ESSENTIALS

- ✓ Wait for soil warmth, not calendar dates
- ✓ Mulch protects against drying summer winds
  - ✓ Diversity = pest control
- ✓ Healthy soil is the long-term goal