



teacher exercise: **Timing Challenge**

overview

A **teacher exercise** outlining the steps to schedule the timing of planting several crops to yield a “plant parts salad” garden that matures at the same time.

objectives

Teachers will learn:

- to practice the skills necessary to interpret the information in a seed catalogue.
- to introduce the steps involved in creating a planting plan with particular attention to the timing.

materials

- Seed Catalogues
- Calendar

scenario

When planning a planting plan for a school garden, it is necessary to familiarize yourself with the plants you plan to include. Plants require different lengths of time to mature and the school garden practitioner must schedule planting dates such that the garden as a whole matures at the same time.

Your principal has requested that the school garden include a “plant parts salad” garden that can be harvested and prepared into a salad before the end of the school year.

Your task is to consider the plants that should and can be included to yield a garden representing all plant parts (roots, stems, leaves, flowers, fruits, and seeds), to refine the list to plants that can be grown in the spring season, and to schedule the planting dates such that the garden matures on time.

Complete the following steps to satisfy the request:

- **Create a plant list.** Brainstorm and develop a list of all plants typically found in a leafy greens salad. Browse a seed catalogue and cross reference plants that you find in salads on restaurant menus.
- **Categorize the wish list** into the edible plant parts they will produce (roots, stems, leaves, flowers, fruits, seeds).
- **Identify plants in each plant part category** that grow in the cool season (April through June).
- **Select one plant from each category** to serve as the representative of each plant part category and will combine well with the other representatives to make a delicious salad.
- **Determine the maturation range** or the days to maturity from seed.
- **Select a harvest celebration** date in June.
- **Mark the dates on a calendar** that each of the six plants will have to be planted in order for the salad to mature in time for the harvest celebration.