

# \* Renee's Garden \*

Your Garden To Table Seed Company

## RAISED BED PROJECT: WHAT TO PLANT FOR "EARLY-SEASON" SPRING CROPS



### Recommended Renee's Garden varieties:

#### Peas:

Edible Pod Snow Pea 'Oregon Giant'  
Organic Snap Pea 'Sugar Daddy'  
Shelling Pea 'Sabre'

#### Carrots:

French Baby Carrot 'Babette'  
Organic Chantenay Carrots 'Short Stuff'  
Yellow and Orange Carrot 'Sunshine Mix'

#### Beets:

Organic Dutch Beet 'Baby Ball'  
Jewel Toned Beets 'Red, Gold, and Candystripe'

#### Spinach:

Baby Leaf Spinach 'Catalina'  
Organic Baby Salad Spinach 'Regiment'

#### Greens:

Pan Pacific Greens 'Renee's Stir Fry Mix'  
Organic "Stir Fry Blend"

#### Mesclun:

Baby Leaf Mesclun Lettuces 'Cut and Come Again'  
Signature Salads 'Monet's Garden Mesclun'  
Organic Heirloom Lettuces 'Five variety Blend'

#### Parsley:

Kitchen Herbs 'Italian Gigante Parsley' Organic  
Organic Heirloom Parsley 'Italian Large Leaf'

#### Cilantro:

Kitchen Herbs 'Slo-Bolt Cilantro'  
Organic Heirloom Cilantro

## Planting Instructions for “Early-Season” Spring Crops

Bagged planting mix will most likely contain added fertilizer when you purchase it, but because most garden vegetables are heavy feeders, and you also want to keep them producing over a long season, we strongly recommend adding extra fertilizer at planting time for the best results. There are many good both conventional and organic fertilizers available; add a granular vegetable fertilizer at half strength at the recommended application on the back of the package.

All of the early season varieties will be direct sown in early spring, when danger of hard frost is over. Once the seeds are sown, the bed should be kept evenly moist while awaiting germination.

**Peas** – Mark off a 1.5 ft. x 4 ft. space at the top end of the bed. Provide three foot supports at planting time; wire fencing or netting attached to sticks will work just fine. Or you can use twigs from trees. **Be sure to** read packet backs for brief but detailed info on what to expect and how to care for and harvest this crop.

**Carrot/Radish** – Next to the peas, mark off a space of 1.5 ft. x 2 ft.

- Make very shallow furrows that are 2 ft. long, spaced 4 in. apart. Sow carrot seed in the furrows, carefully spacing seed ½ inch apart. Cover very lightly with soil, no more than ¼ in. Deep. Thin the young carrots several times, so seedlings are 2 to 3 inches apart and have room to size up. In between the rows of carrots, make new shallow furrows to sow radish seed. Space radish seed 1 in. apart and cover ½ inch deep. Thin the quick-growing radish seedlings early to 2 in. apart so roots have room to size up. **Be sure to** read packet backs for brief but detailed info on what to expect and how to care for and harvest this crop.

- This is an example of “interplanting”, getting 2 crops out of 1 space. Radishes grow more quickly than carrots, and will be ready to harvest in about 30 days. Once radishes are harvested, they provide space, so the carrots can size up nicely. Your seedlings will be ready to be out by the time the radishes are harvested.

**Beets** - Next to the carrot/radish space, mark off a space of 1.5 ft. x 2 ft.

- Broadcast thinly for bed planting, aiming for 1 inch spacing. Cover ½ inch deep and firm soil well over these irregularly shaped seeds to ensure good germination. If first sowing germinates unevenly, plant more seed in the rows as seedlings will catch up fast. Carefully thin when seedlings are large enough to handle to 3 to 4 inches apart so roots have room to grow and mature. **Be sure to** read packet backs for brief but detailed info on what to expect and how to care for and harvest this crop.

**Baby Spinach** - Below to the carrot/radish space, mark off a space of 1.5 ft. x 2 ft.

- Broadcast thinly for bed planting, aiming for 1 inch spacing. Cover ½ inch deep and firm soil well over these irregularly shaped seeds to ensure good germination. If first sowing germinates unevenly, plant more seed in the rows as seedlings will catch up fast. After seedlings reach 2 to 3 inches tall, thin out every other plant (and enjoy in early salads) and keep thinning in this fashion until plants are spaced 5 or 6 inches apart. Either harvest individual outside leaves from well-established plants and let regrow, or harvest entire plants. **Be sure to** read packet backs for brief but detailed info on what to expect and how to care for and harvest this crop.

**Green's, Renee's Stir Fry Mix** - Next to the Baby Spinach space, mark off a space of 1.5 ft. x 2 ft.

- Shake seeds from the palm of your hand, broadcasting them about a half inch apart over the entire seed bed, and cover lightly and evenly with 1/2 inch of fine soil. Firm the soil gently over seeds. To harvest by the "cut and come again" method, wait until plants are 6 to 7 inches tall. Cut as much as you need, using scissors to shear off a patch of leaves 1 to 2 inches above the soil level. Water well and fertilize lightly and plants will regrow for several more cuttings. **Be sure to** read packet backs for brief but detailed info on what to expect and how to care for and harvest this crop.

**Mesclun** - Below to the Baby Spinach space, mark off a space of 1.5 ft. x 2 ft.

- Shake seeds from the palm of your hand, broadcasting them about a half inch apart over the entire seed bed, and cover lightly and evenly with 1/4 inch of fine soil. Firm the soil gently over seeds. To harvest by the "cut and come again" method, wait until plants are 4 or 5 inches tall. Cut as much as you need, using scissors to shear off a patch of leaves 1 to 2 inches above the soil level. Water well and fertilize lightly and plants will regrow for several more cuttings. **Be sure to** read packet backs for brief but detailed info on what to expect and how to care for and harvest this crop.

**Parsley** – Next to the Mesclun space, mark off a space of 1.5 ft. x 1 ft.

- Broadcast seeds 1-2 inches apart over entire seed bed. Cover 1/4 inch deep. Parsley germinates unevenly over several weeks; be patient and keep seed bed evenly moist. Thin early and keep well weeded and watered. Begin to harvest once plants have 8 to 10 leaves. **Be sure to** read packet backs for brief but detailed info on what to expect and how to care for and harvest this crop.

**Cilantro** – Next to the Parsley planting, there will be a remaining space of about 1.5 ft. x 1 ft. Broadcast cilantro seeds 1 to 2 inches apart over entire seed bed. Cover 1/4 inch deep and firm soil over seeds. Thin seedlings 3 to 4 inches apart before plants get crowded. Begin to harvest once plants have 8 to 10 leaves. **Be sure to** read packet backs for brief but detailed info on what to expect and how to care for and harvest this crop.