Planning Next Year’s Garden

Wellington Garden Club Meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 17th, 2026

Know Your Zone 6a Conditions

- **Last spring frost:** ~April 15–28
- **First fall frost:** ~October 8–20
- **Growing season:** ~150–180 days (varies slightly by microclimate)
- **Winter lows:** –10°F to –5°F (determines perennial survival)
- **What this means for your planning:**
- You can run **three full garden phases**: spring cool-season, summer warm-season, and fall crops.
- Nearly all common vegetables, herbs, and many fruits thrive here.
- Soil is often **clay-based loam**, so compost and raised beds improve drainage

October-November 2026

Plant

- Garlic (ideal planting time)
- Tulips, daffodils, alliums, crocus
- Peonies
- Hardy perennials

Garden Tasks

- Soil test beds
- Add compost and shredded leaves
- Mulch perennial borders
- Sketch next year's garden layout
- Order seeds early, especially specialty lisianthus varieties

Fall–Winter Planning (October–January)

- This is when you design next year's garden.
- **Map your garden**
- Identify warm spots (south-facing walls, rock beds) to plant earlier.
- Note cold pockets where frost lingers.
- **Plan crop rotation**
- Avoid repeating tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, brassicas, or carrots in the same bed to reduce disease pressure.
- **Soil testing & amendments**
- Test soil every 3–4 years.
- Apply **lime or sulfur in fall** if pH needs adjustment (they take months to work).
- Add **1–2 inches of compost** to all beds.
- **Order seeds**
- January is ideal for selecting varieties based on your frost window.