



Hope Gardens Almanac

this is homegrown.

a monthly guide to vegetable gardening in Los Angeles

Companion flowers

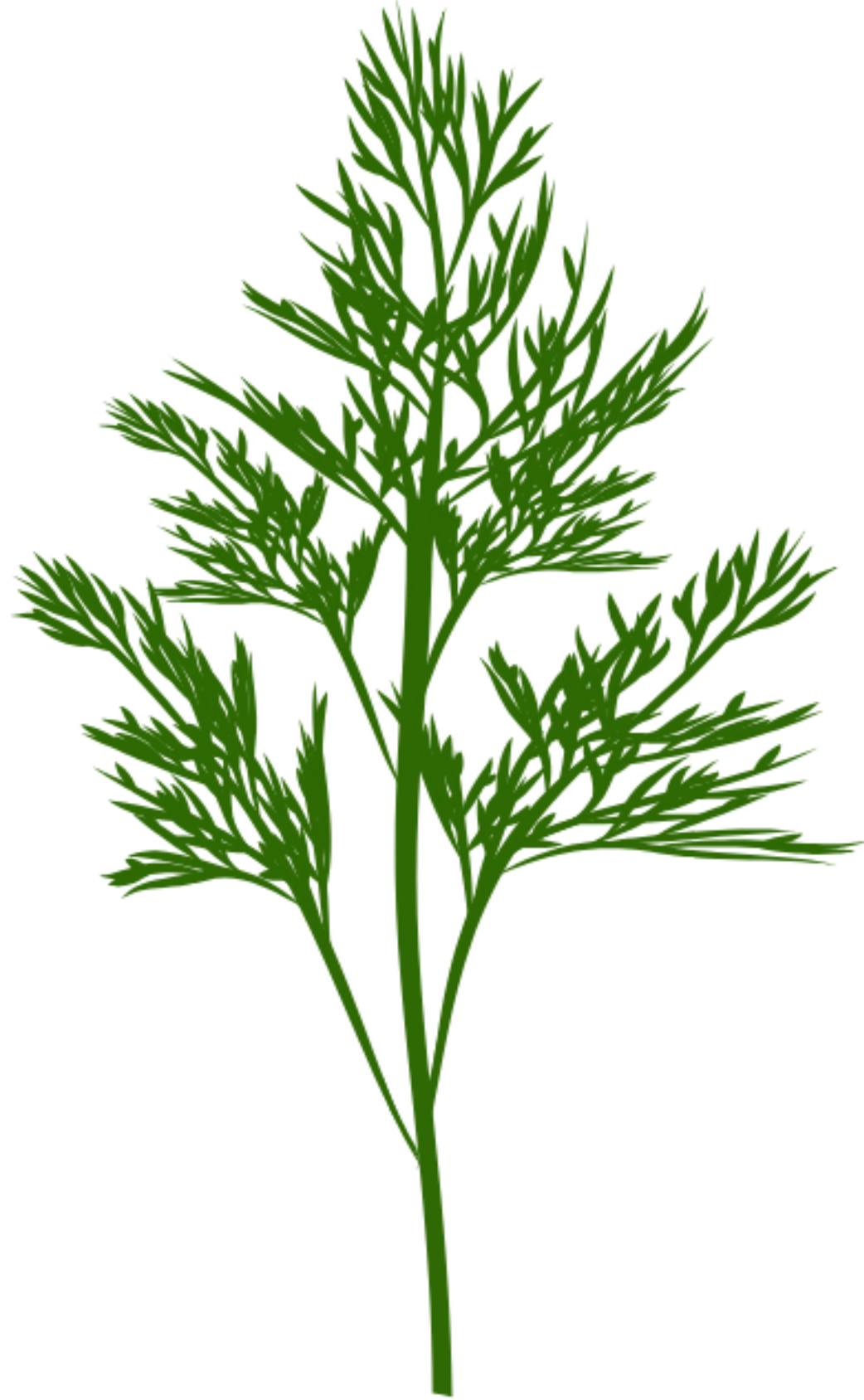
for vegetables



All flowers in the garden help beautify and attract pollinators. These examples are some of my favorites. Plant herbs and flowers throughout your vegetable garden to confuse pests and create a healthy eco-system.

blue african basil
borage
calendula
cosmos
iceland poppies
lobelia
marigold
nasturtium
sweet alyssum
yarrow

common herbs



basil
chamomile
cilantro
chives
dill
parsley
rosemary
sage
tarragon
thyme
oregano



WINTER WANTS

broccoli

beets

cabbage

chard

carrots

celery

fava

fennel

garlic

kale

lettuce

mustard

onion

peas

radish

spinach



Summer Staples

basil

beans

chiles

cucumbers

eggplant

okra

peppers

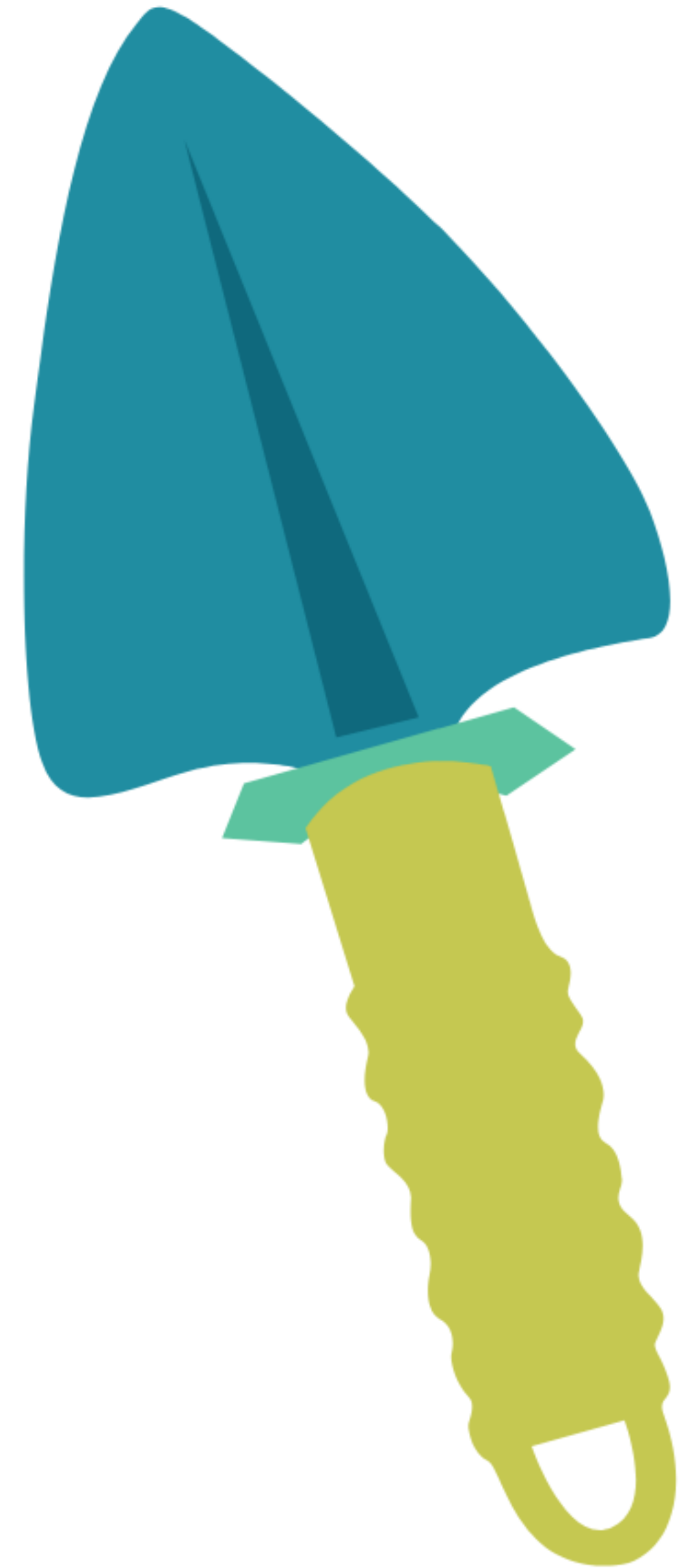
melons

summer squash

tomatillo

tomato

winter squash



JANUARY

- Plant garlic and onion –**
- Order spring seeds –**
- Sanitize pots –**
- Check fertilizer & other supplies –**
- Hunt for aphids & cabbage worms –**
- Harvest broccoli before it flowers –**
- Pick peas often –**
- Sidedress veggies with fertilizer /
compost –**
- Prune fruit trees –**
- Chit potatoes –**



Be cool

FEBRUARY



- Look for wildflowers –**
- Sort the compost –**
- Start spring seeds indoors –**
- Plant potatoes –**
- Plan spring garden by avoiding**
- Planting nightshades where**
- brassicas are –**
- Brush tops of seedlings as they**
- grow –**
- Harvest harvest harvest –**

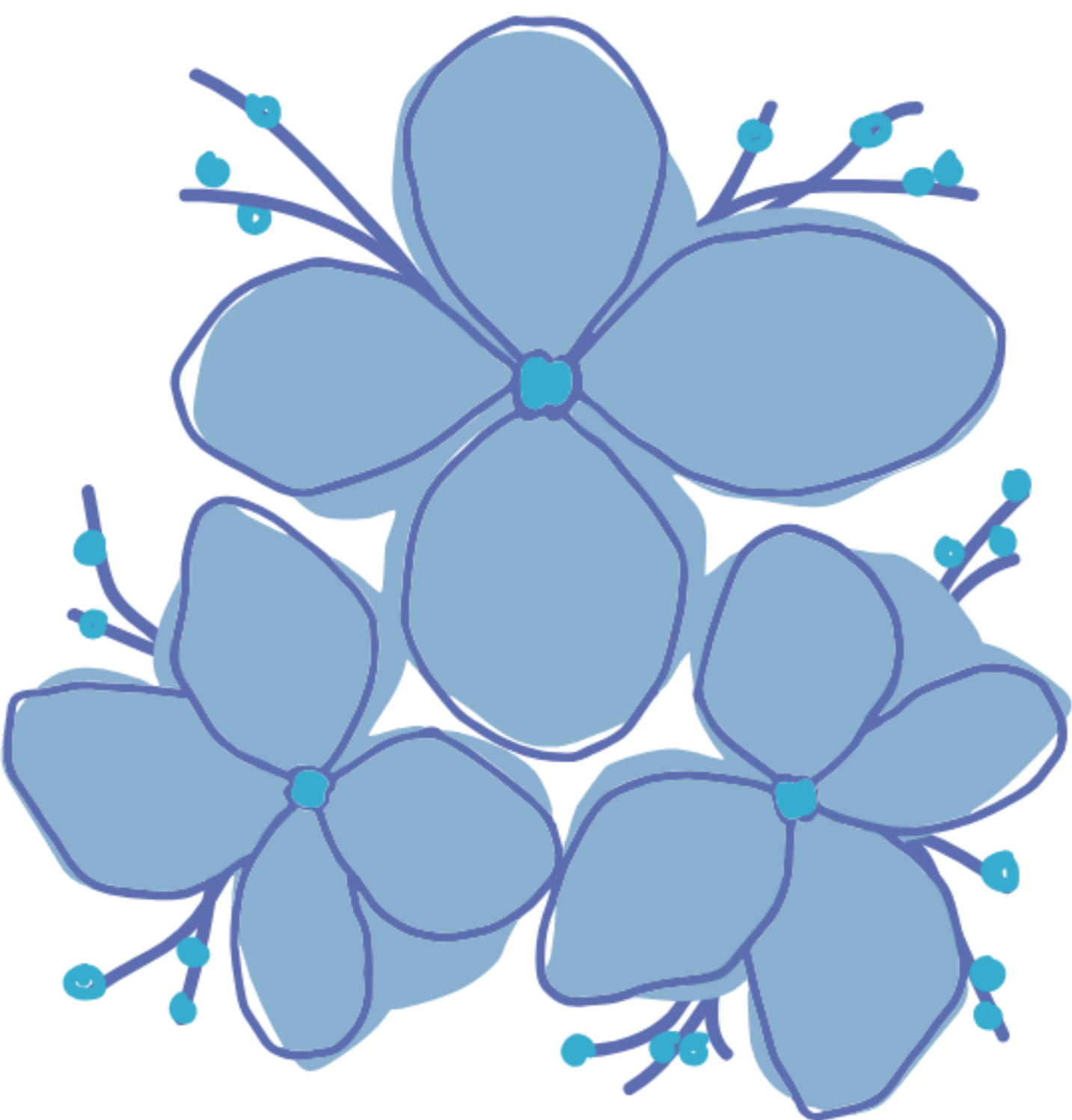
the world awakes

MARCH

renewal

- Turn over soil gently –**
- Add amendments, fertilizers & additional soil if necessary –**
- Sow seeds directly in the garden –**
- Transfer seedlings to the garden –**
- Add soil to potatoes –**
- Attend to vermicompost –**
- Refresh landscaping plants & mulch –**
- Collect rainwater –**

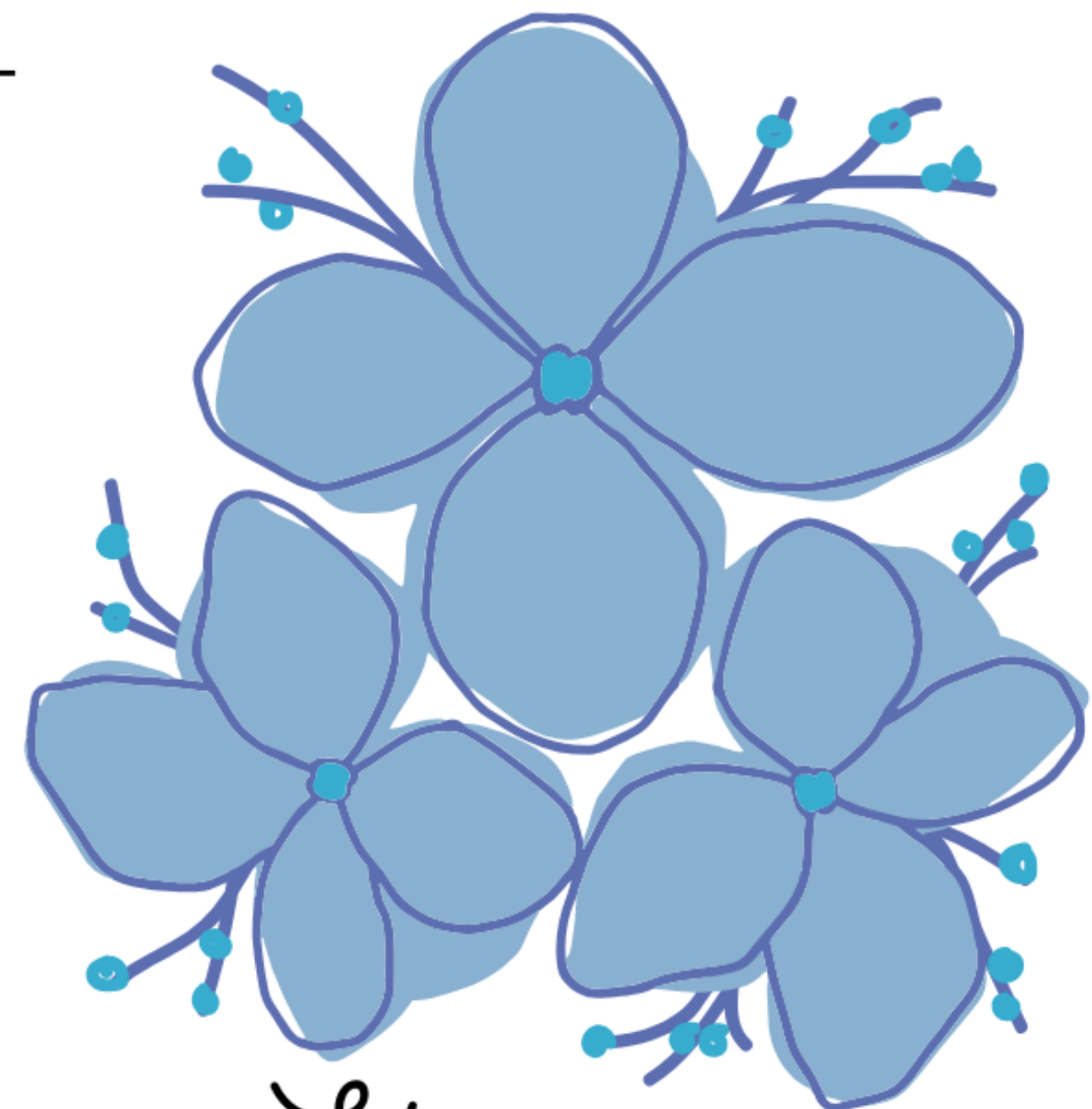




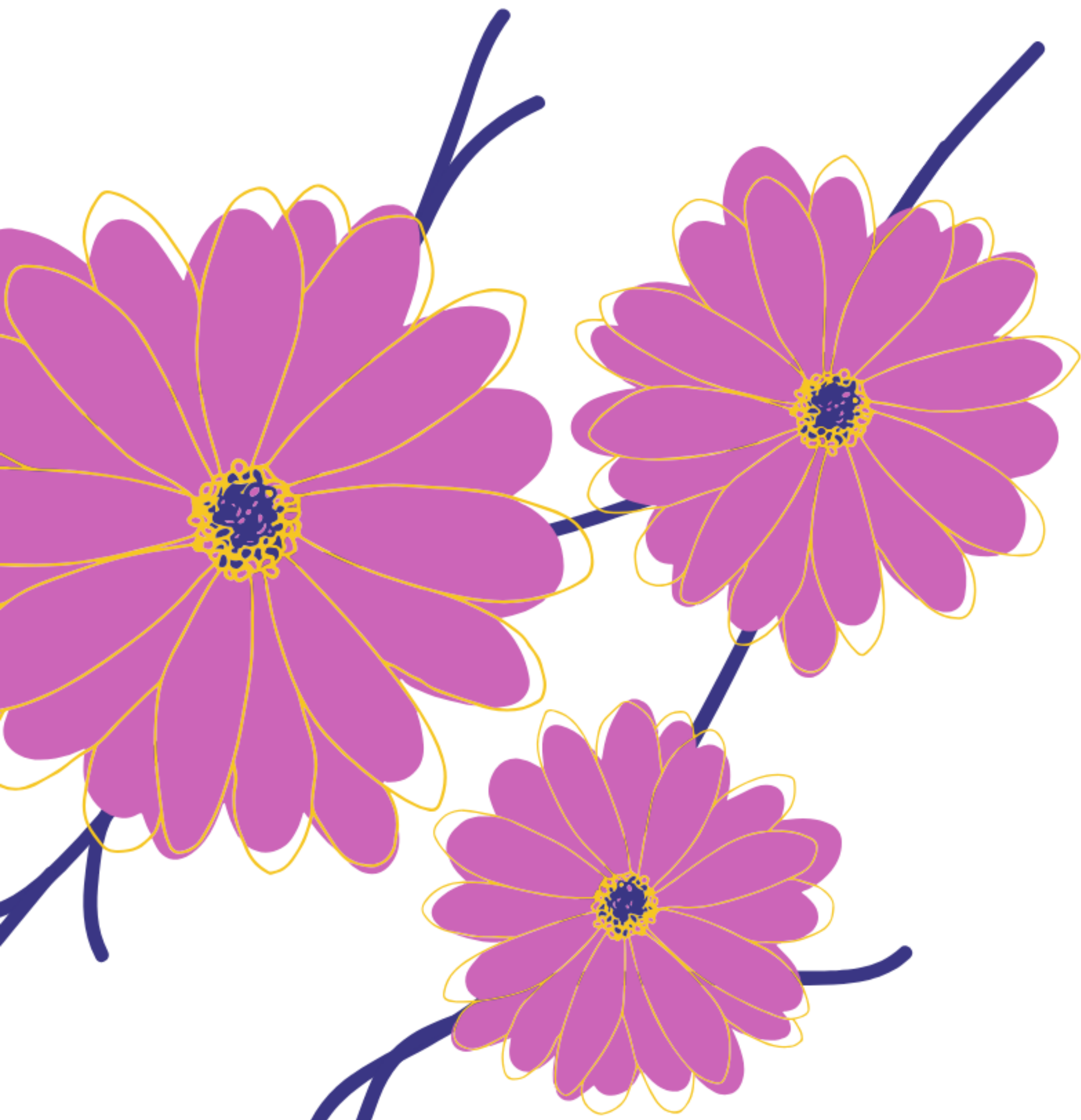
April

**Snip off the tops of
pepper plants for a
more productive plant –
Plant another row of
lettuce for successive
harvests –
Remove aphids with a
garden glove or blast
from the hose –
Feed trees –
Transplant & sow more
spring vegetables –**

APRIL



Showers



May Flowers

MAY

**Deadhead flowers –
Stake beans –
Side dress plants with fertilizer &
compost –
Harvest often to keep plants
productive, especially peas –
Pinch blooms from Italian basil –
Harvest new potatoes and/or add
compost to mounds –
Apply vinegar drench to
blueberries**

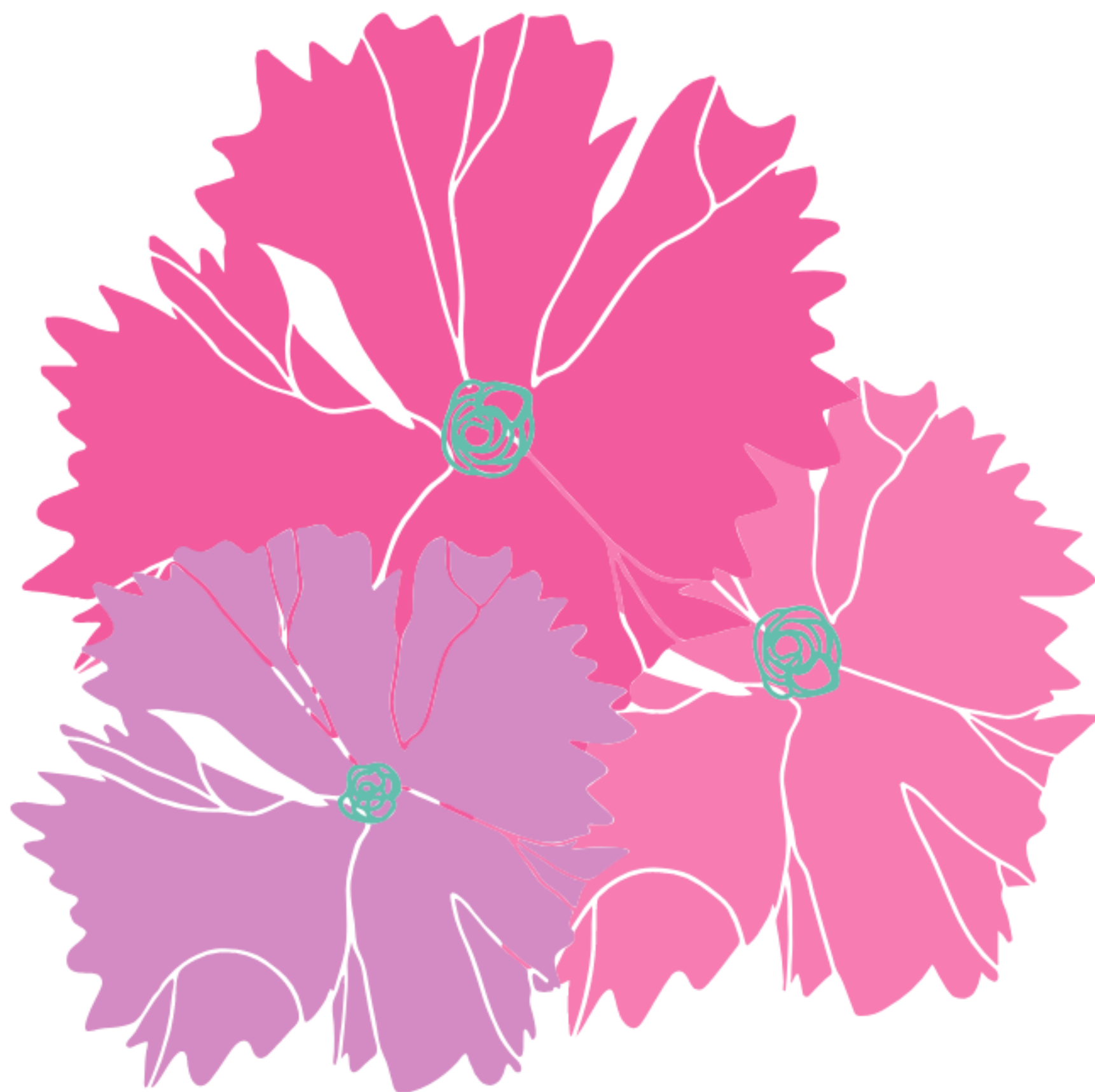
JUNE

**Stake tomatoes –
Hand pollinate squashes –
Stop irrigating onion & garlic –
Cut down peas & turn into
garden soil –
Fertilize strawberries and
blueberries –
Add another seed row of
carrot, radish, greens &
tender herbs –
Harvest often –**

Relish the gloom!



JULY



If possible work in the late afternoon / evening to give plants the cool of the night to recover –
Harvest daily –
Foliar feed & root drench with seaweed fertilizer and compost tea –
Plant pumpkin seeds and other second season plantings –
Plant greens in the shade –
Search for pests such as squash bugs & hornworms –
Soak fruit trees –

Sweet summertime



enjoy a

second

season

AUGUST

Use a row cover to keep plants cool –

Prune ragged leaves and pull dying plants –

Pinch lead vines back to encourage side shoots –

Pinch off the last blossoms of eggplants, peppers, melons, squashes & tomatoes so fruits ripen –

Sidedress second season plants with fertilizer and compost –

Mulch plants and water often –

Let herbs flower –

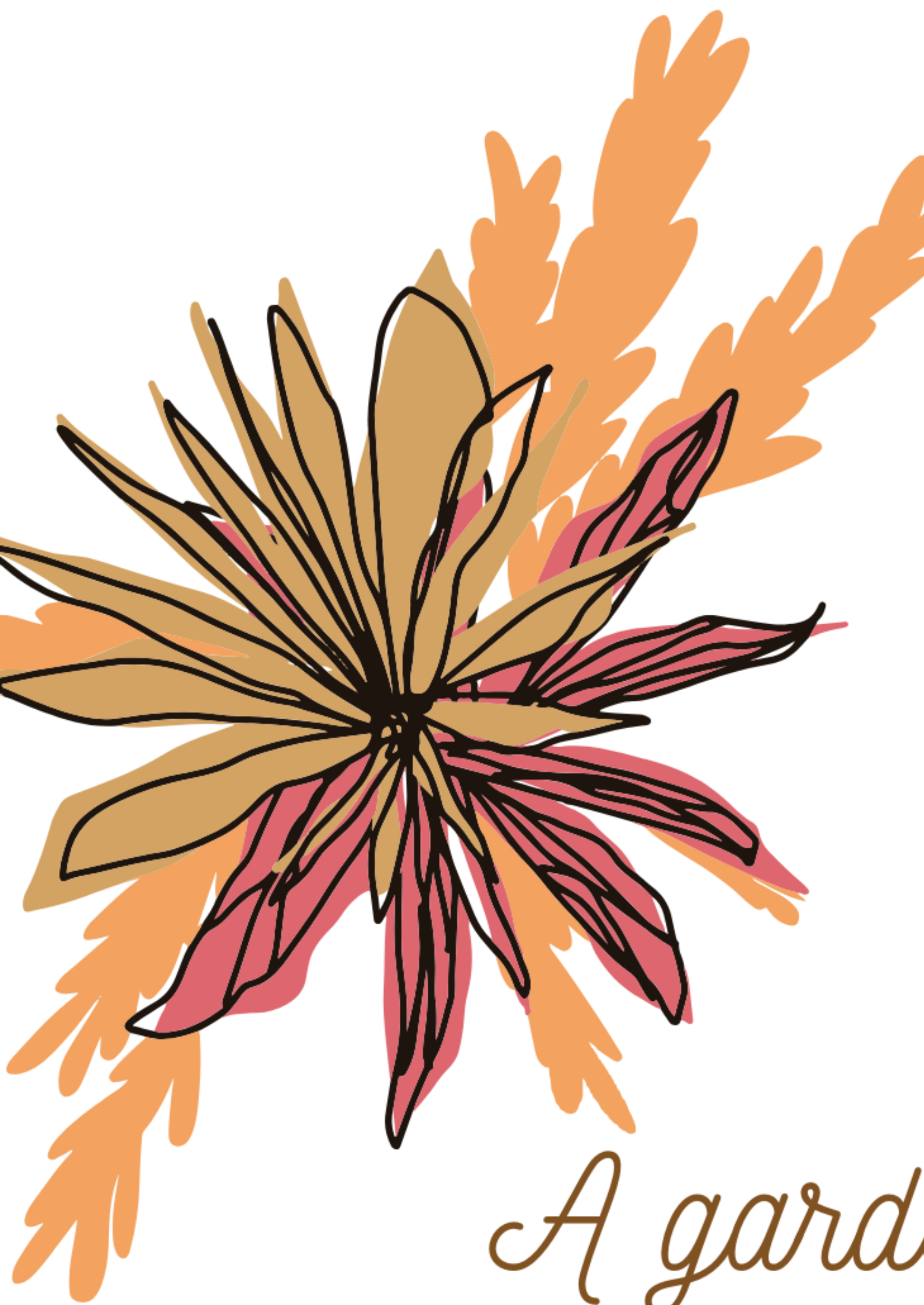
Start sunflowers –

SEPTEMBER

- Test & dispose of old seeds –**
- Order winter seeds –**
- Make carrot seed tape –**
- Harvest often –**
- Keep a leaf pile –**
- Sow herbs to use indoors –**
- Dig out / turn over compost –**
- Plan cool-weather garden to avoid planting heavy feeders in same spot, such as nightshades & brassicas –**
- Consider a cover crop if not growing a winter garden –**
- Feed citrus –**



*Summer
Scarcer*



OCTOBER

**Start winter seedlings indoors –
gently turn over soil –
Add fertilizer, amendments & new soil
if necessary –
Direct plant onion & other winter
garden seeds –
Divide woody herbs & establish new
plants from cuttings –
Collect seeds from flowering plants –
Replenish compost and leaf pile –
Hose off all plant material to keep
pests at bay –**

A garden for every season



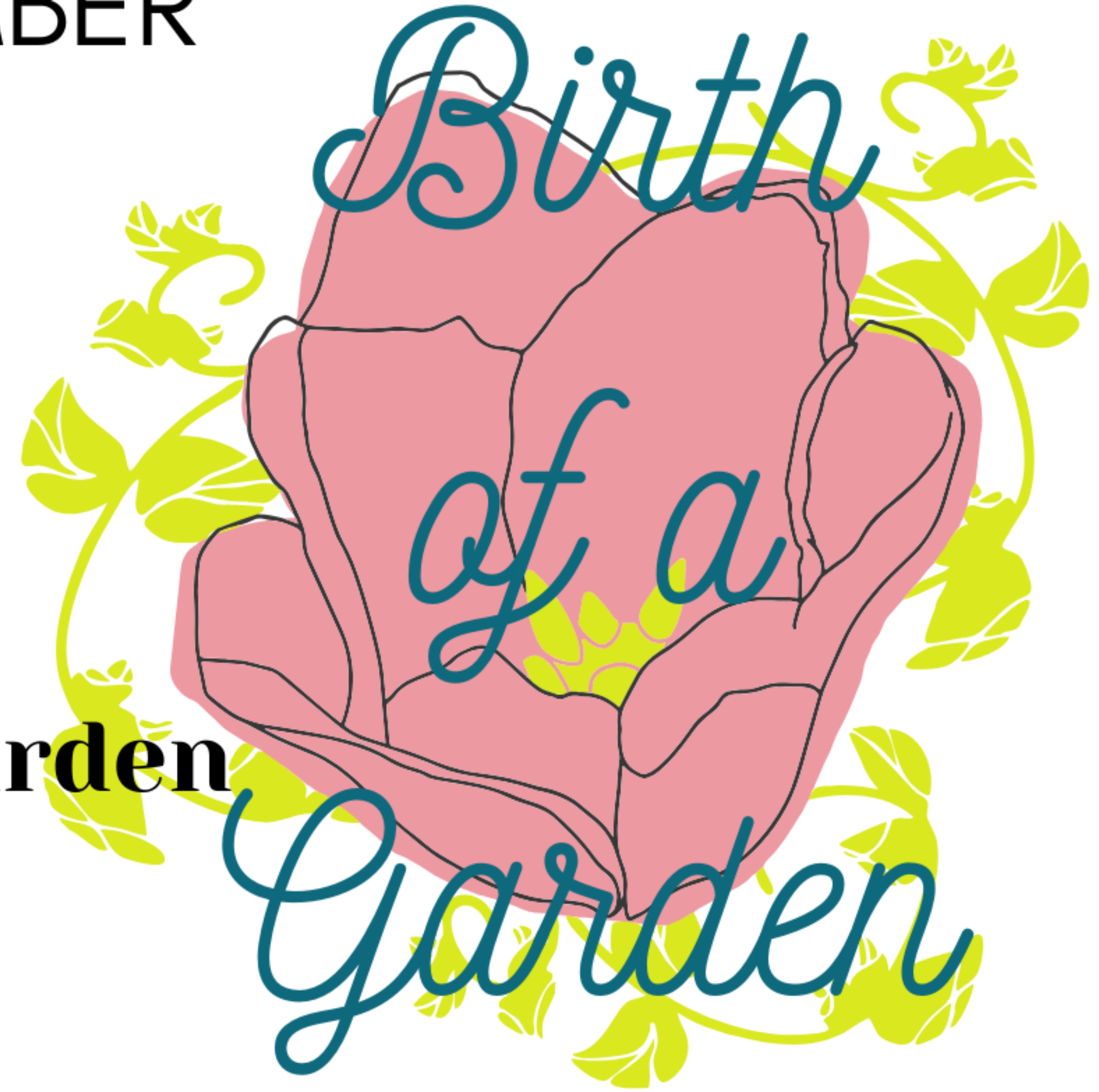
NOVEMBER

- Cover new garden with row cover to prevent cabbage worms –**
- Chit potatoes –**
- Plan holiday harvest –**
- Create holiday garden gifts –**
- Reap radish and other fast growers –**
- Attend to vermicompost –**
- Cut back milkweed & ornamental shrubs –**
- Transplant & mulch strawberries –**

Value the garden

DECEMBER

Stake peas –
Harvest lots of lettuce –
Plant more radish seeds–
Thin carrots and beets –
Dig out / turn compost –
Test pH, fertilize & mulch
blueberries –
Foliar feed & root drench garden
with seaweed fertilizer –



I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

That was a lot I know and now you have questions. I have a website with answers...as do a lot of fine people. Check www.yourhopegarden.com and other helpful garden sites and books and do your own research on issues such as: SEED STARTING, FOLIAR FEEDING, TOMATO PLANTING, POTATO CHITTING, BLUEBERRY GROWING, STRAWBERRY GROWING, PUMPKIN GROWING, SEED TAPE, SEED TESTING, VINEGAR DRENCHING BLUEBERRIES, SEED COLLECTION, HERB DRYING, HAND POLLINATING SQUASH, COMPANION PLANTING, MILKWEED FOR MONARCHS, COMPOSTING, VERMICOMPOSTING, FERTILIZATION AND SOIL AMENDMENTS. Thanks for reading! Happy Gardening Warriors!

