

 UrbanMicroTips



2026 EDITION

Balcony Plant Calendar

What to sow, plant & harvest every month —
for apartment renters with a balcony

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 **January**

START INDOORS

Chilli peppers Sweet peppers Celery

HARVEST ANYTIME

Microgreens Windowsill herbs

KEY TASK

Order seeds early Plan layout

 **February**

START INDOORS

Cherry tomatoes Aubergine Leeks Onions

PLANT ON BALCONY

Spinach (sheltered) Mâche

HARVEST

Microgreens

 **March**

START INDOORS

Courgette Cucumber Basil Nasturtium

SOW OUTSIDE (LATE, S-FACING)

Radish Lettuce Spinach

HARVEST

Overwintered herbs

 **April**

PLANT OUTSIDE

Mint Parsley Chives Coriander Thyme Oregano

HARVEST

Radish Lettuce Herbs

KEY TASK

Pot up tomato seedlings

 **May**

TRANSPLANT OUTSIDE

Tomatoes Chilli peppers Courgette Cucumber Basil

DIRECT SOW

French beans Runner beans Nasturtium

HARVEST

Salad Herbs

 **June**

SOW FOR AUTUMN

Second lettuce batch Kale Chard

HARVEST

Radish Salad leaves Spring onions Herbs daily

KEY TASK

Water 2x daily in heat

 July

SOW FOR LATE AUTUMN

Radish (succession) Spinach Winter kale

PEAK HARVEST

Cherry tomatoes Courgette (daily!) French beans Basil

KEY TASK

Pinch tomato side shoots

 August

SOW FOR AUTUMN

Pak choi Asian greens Rocket / Arugula Winter lettuce

PEAK HARVEST

Tomatoes Peppers Courgette

KEY TASK

Top-dress containers with compost

 September

PLANT OUT

Garlic cloves Spring bulbs Autumn salad mix

HARVEST

Kale + chard Last tomatoes Pak choi

KEY TASK

Pot up chillies to bring inside

 October

PLANT OUT

Garlic (if not done) Overwintering onion sets

LAST HARVESTS

All remaining chillies Green tomatoes (ripen inside)

KEY TASK

Move pots to sheltered corner Wrap terracotta in frost

 November

GROW INDOORS

Microgreens (all types) Windowsill herbs Forced hyacinths

HARVEST

Microgreens 7–14 days Kale (frost sweetens it)

KEY TASK

Review what worked in 2026

 December

GROW INDOORS

Microgreens Paperwhite narcissus Mint in pot

HARVEST

Microgreens Indoor herbs

KEY TASK

Sterilise pots Order 2027 seeds

Month	Start Indoors / Sow	Plant Outside	Harvest
January	Chillies, peppers, celery	—	Microgreens
February	Tomatoes, aubergine, leeks, onions	Spinach (sheltered)	Microgreens, spinach
March	Courgette, cucumber, basil, nasturtium	Radish, lettuce (late March)	Overwintered herbs
April	Basil (keep indoors)	Mint, parsley, chives, coriander, thyme	Radish, lettuce, herbs
May	—	Tomatoes, peppers, courgette, beans, basil	Salad, herbs
June	Kale, chard (for autumn)	Second lettuce sowing	Radish, salad, herbs
July	Spinach, winter kale	—	Tomatoes, courgette, beans
August	Pak choi, rocket, winter lettuce	Asian greens	Peak: all summer crops
September	—	Garlic cloves, spring bulbs	Kale, salad, last tomatoes
October	—	Overwintering onion sets	Final chillies, tomatoes
November	Microgreens, windowsill herbs	—	Microgreens, kale
December	Microgreens, forced bulbs	—	Microgreens, indoor herbs

South / West Facing

- Best for tomatoes, peppers, basil, courgette
- Can plant 2–3 weeks earlier than north-facing
- Use windbreak for exposed high-rise balconies
- Water daily in July–August

North / East Facing

- Focus on: salad, spinach, kale, herbs
- Avoid tomatoes, peppers, basil (need sun)
- Mint, chives, parsley thrive here
- Season shorter — start indoors longer

Container Tips

- Tomatoes need minimum 30L pot
- Herbs: 15–20cm pots minimum
- Use fabric pots — lighter, better drainage
- Always have drainage holes
- Self-watering pots = less work in summer

Watering Guide

- Spring: every 2–3 days
- Summer: morning + evening when hot
- Autumn: every 3–5 days
- Stick finger 2cm in soil — if dry, water
- Yellow leaves often = overwatering

Zone Adjustment Guide

Zone / Region	Last Frost	Adjust Outdoors Planting By	Example Cities
Zone 9–10 (warm)	February–March	2–3 weeks earlier	LA, Madrid, Rome, Seville
Zone 7–8 (temperate)	Mid April	As listed in calendar	London, Paris, NYC, Warsaw
Zone 5–6 (cooler)	Mid May	2–3 weeks later	Berlin, Chicago, Moscow, Oslo