

September - Week 5 *Harvest Time: Digging in the Dirt*

Are you a gardener? If so, it's time to get the spade and hoe ready. It is not too late to plant your last rows of lettuce, spinach and kale. As you dig in with your hoe does the soil look or feel different than last spring? What might have made the differences? Take a look with a magnifier.

In September, as the vines die back you will want to dig your root crops too. It is hard to believe, but tomatoes and potatoes are related. They are both in the Nightshade family and their flowers look very similar. But they are very different in other ways. Compare and contrast a summer tomato and a fall potato. A tomato has a short life-span, so how does it ensure survival? Why are the characteristics of a fall plant so important to the plant – and to people?

Visit your garden or a local community or school garden. Use your journal to write about your experience in the garden. What fruits or vegetables can be harvested this week/month? What seeds will you sow in September for a late fall harvest? How does it feel to dig in the dirt?

If possible, plan a harvest meal to celebrate the season. What foods will you serve? Will you have decorations for your celebration too?

