A MONTH-BY-MONTH CHECKLIST

The Apartment Homesteader's Year

Grow, compost, and preserve without land. Tasks use a temperate US climate (USDA Zones 6–7) as a baseline. Shift them 1–2 weeks earlier if you're warmer, later if you're colder, and check your own frost dates. Full guide, costs, and what goes wrong at homesteadingguide.com/apartment-homesteading-monthly-calendar.

January

- Order seed early, before varieties sell out.
- Start onions and leeks indoors (Zones 5–7).
- Build a worm bin; don't feed a dormant one. Sourdough starter.

February

- Set up the seed-starting station.
- Start peppers indoors (Zone 7+). Test old seed.
- Bake the first loaves; ferment winter veg.

March

- Start tomatoes indoors on a heat mat.
- Direct sow peas, spinach, radishes outside.
- Refresh the bin's bedding; pull first castings.

April

- Transplant cool-season crops to the balcony.
- Harden off tender seedlings over 7 days.
- Succession-sow lettuce and radishes.

May

- Transplant tomatoes and peppers after last frost.
- Sow beans, squash, cucumbers; Brussels sprouts indoors.
- Get trellises and cages in early.

June

- First radish and lettuce harvests.
- Transplant the May-sown Brussels sprouts.
- Move the worm bin indoors for summer. Water pots daily.

July

- Harvest and water daily; prune tomatoes.
- Start fall broccoli and cabbage indoors.
- Small-batch canning: sauce, pickles, half-pints.

August

- Transplant fall broccoli and cabbage to the balcony.
- Save seed; sow fall lettuce, spinach, beets.
- Bulk canning; freezer-scrap method for the bin.

September

- Final outdoor harvests.
- Bring peppers and herbs in; quarantine 2 weeks.
- Label and date everything you've stored.

October

- Set up the grow-light shelf.
- Sow microgreens; plant garlic in a deep pot.
- Run a bokashi bucket as the worm bin slows.

November

- Keep herbs and microgreens under light.
- Plan next year's layout; order seed.
- Work through last year's jars.

December

- Keep microgreens going; bake.
- Inventory and germination-test leftover seed.
- Annual review: what worked, what failed.

Print the tracking sheet on the next page. One copy per month.

Monthly Record

Fill one of these in each month. After a year it's worth more than any calendar, because it's matched to your window, your zone, and your mistakes.

Month	
Crops started (sown / transplanted)	
Crops harvested + rough weight	
Compost / worm-bin notes	
Preserved (canned / fermented / dried / stored)	
Costs this month	
What failed, what I'd change	
Changes for next month	