PlantingByZones App: a case study

Planning Development Reflection

Objective:

As part of my CareerFoundry curriculum, this project challenged me to build my first app using JavaScript, designed to fetch and display data from a third-party API.

Conceptualization: To meet the project requirement of showcasing a third-party API, I envisioned creating an app to help gardeners determine the optimal planting schedule based on their specific hardiness zone. The goal was to develop an intuitive app that provides detailed information on plants and their ideal planting times, tailored to the user's hardiness zone.

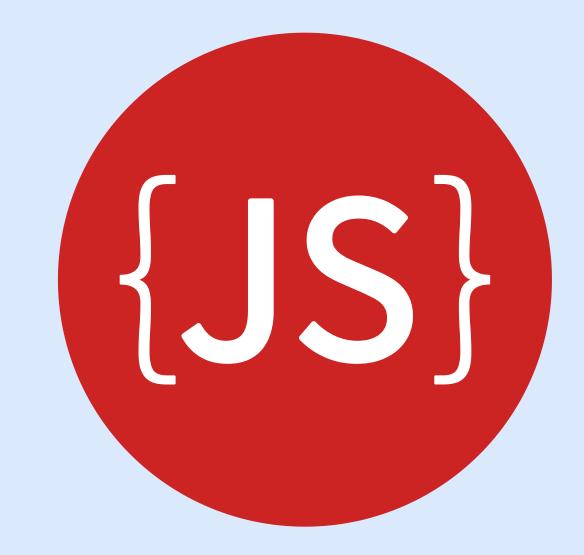
Structure:

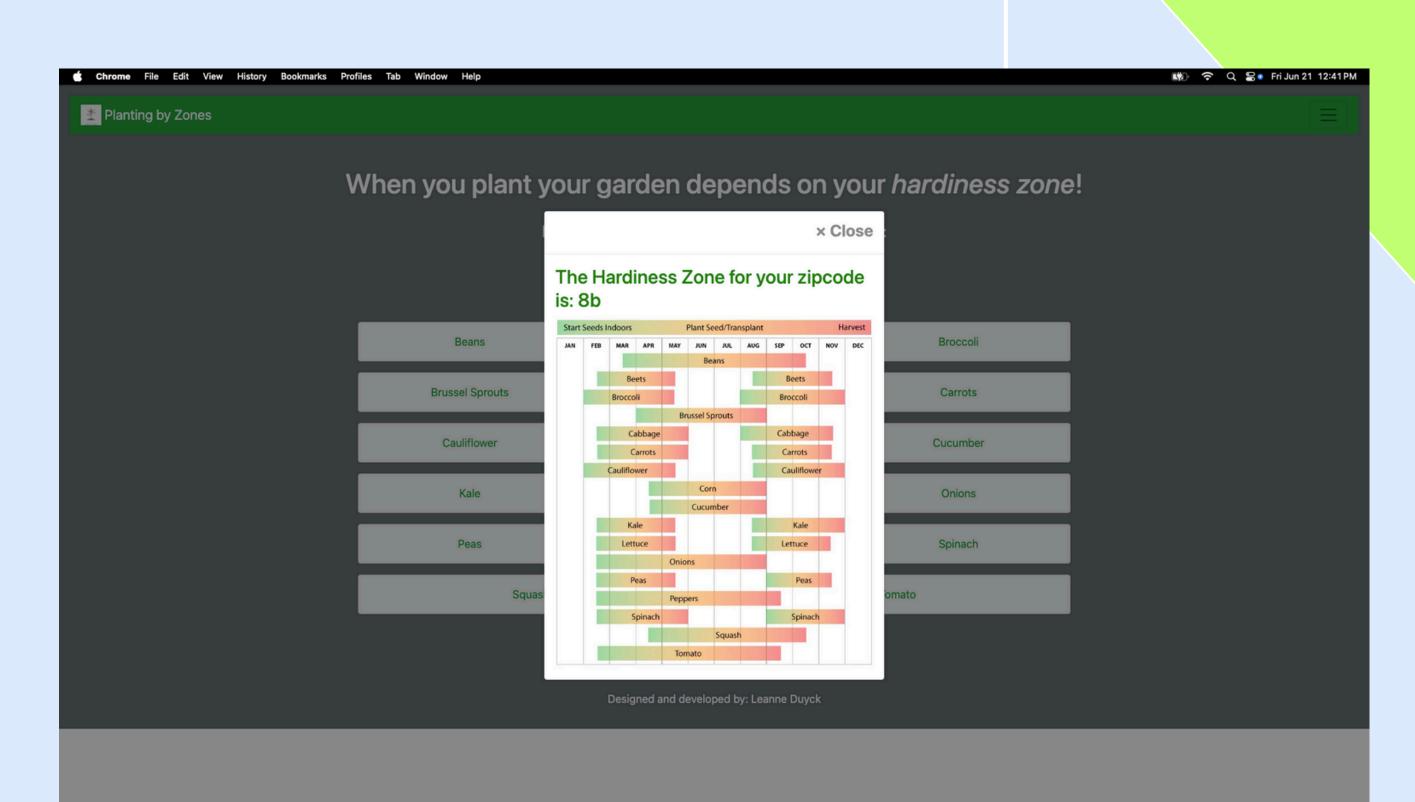
I began by constructing the app's basic structure using HTML, which laid the foundation for its content and layout. The next challenge was integrating this structure with JavaScript. Given that this was my first experience coding with JavaScript, I faced a significant learning curve. JavaScript's complex and dynamic nature contrasted with the more straightforward, organization-based logic of HTML and CSS. By progressing step-by-step and focusing on fully grasping each concept, I gradually brought the app to life in this new language.

Conclusion: Reflecting on this development process, it would have been beneficial to have a clearer end vision at the projects' outset. The initial build was feature-driven and completely based on homework tasks without a comprehensive end goal or clear layout plan. Despite this, the app marks several major firsts in my coding journey: my first use of JavaScript, my first implementation of a third-party API, and my first time styling entirely with Bootstrap! Ultimately, my commitment to continuous learning and creative problem-solving enabled me to overcome challenges and create an easy-to-use app that helps gardeners plan their planting times based on their local hardiness zones.

API Integration:

Integrating the third-party API presented a major challenge. As a novice coder, I struggled to comprehend and implement the API documentation. After extensive troubleshooting on my own, a one-on-one video call with my tutor proved invaluable, guiding me through the process and leading to the significant milestone of successfully implementing my first third-party API.





Design:
Following project
requirements, I styled the
app entirely with Bootstrap,
another first for me.
Bootstrap proved to be a
time-efficient tool, ensuring
the app was both functional
and visually consistent.
Additionally, I implemented a
search function to enhance
the user experience.