

GARDEN PLANNER AND JOURNAL

The worksheets provided in this planner and journal will help you organize and design your home garden. Included you will find information to help determine the best planting dates for your growing zone (based on first and last frost), graph paper to plan the layout of your garden(s), a blank monthly calendar with notes section, and a spreadsheet to keep track of everything you plant and help estimate harvest dates.

Finding your growing zone and/or frost dates: There are several online resources available (USDA, Old Farmer's Almanac, etc.) that can help you find your first and last expected frost dates. I have also included links on the Gardening Resources page of my website (www.sowinginsuburbia.com/gardening-resources). Below you will find information about when it is safe to sow or transplant outdoors relative to your last frost date to help you get your spring/summer garden started. There is also information about the cold tolerance of various vegetable crops and how long they take to reach maturity which will help you plan a fall garden.

Please keep in mind that these are just guidelines to help you plan, and the dates of your first and last frosts are only the EXPECTED dates. So, use your best judgement based on what you know about your climate, and seed packets and plant tags will always have much more detailed information to help guide you.

Growing your own vegetable garden is such a rewarding experience in many ways. Keeping a record and making notes about what does (and doesn't) work in your garden is extremely helpful and will make planning easier each year. Everyone has their own way of keeping a garden journal. If you prefer, a regular notebook works just fine. Feel free to use the included worksheets or let them guide you in creating your own. Happy gardening!



Month:

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Monthly Garden Notes (Varieties to plant, seeds/plants to buy, maintenance tasks, etc.)

[illegible]

VEGETABLE GARDENING – QUICK FACT SHEET

Vegetable Name	Plant Height	Root Depth	Plant Spacing (Inches)	Cool (C) or Warm (W) Season	Seed Storage Time (Yrs)	Germination Temp. (F°) Minimum	Germination Temp. (F°) Optimum	Germination Temp. (F°) Maximum	Days to Germinate at Optimum Temp.	Days to Maturity
Artichoke	3 to 4'	Deep	18	C/W	1 to 4	?	65 - 82	?	8 - 14	85-120
Arugula	6 to 12"	Shallow	6	C	1 to 6	?	45 - 75	?	7 - 14	30-40
Beans (bush)*	12 to 18"	Medium	2	W	2 to 5	60	75 - 85	95	6-14	50-70
Beans (pole)*	7'	Medium	3	W	2 to 5	60	75 - 85	95	6-14	70-85
Beets*	12"	Medium	3	C	2 to 5	40	65 - 85	95	7-10	60-65
Bok Choy	1 to 2'	Shallow	4-12	C	3 to 5	40	60 - 85	95	5-14	30-50
Broccoli	18 to 24"	Shallow	12-18	C	3 to 5	40	60 - 85	95	3-10	55-75
Brussels Sprouts	2 to 3'	Shallow	18-24	C	3 to 5	40	60 - 85	95	3-10	90-110
Cabbage	12 to 18"	Shallow	12-24	C	3 to 5	40	60 - 85	95	4-10	65-75
Carrots*	12"	Medium	1-2	C	3 to 4	40	65 - 85	95	7-21	65-75
Cauliflower	18 to 24"	Shallow	18	C	4 to 5	40	65 - 85	95	4-10	50-60
Collard Greens	2 to 3'	Shallow	8-18	C	3 to 5	40	60 - 85	95	4-10	70-80
Corn*	5 to 6'	Shallow	6-12	W	1 to 3	50	60 - 95	95	6-10	65-90
Cucumber	2 to 6'	Medium	12-18	W	3 to 6	60	65 - 95	105	6-10	50-75
Eggplant	24 to 30"	Medium	18	W	4 to 5	60	75 - 85	95	7-14	75-95
Fennel	30 to 72"	Shallow	10-12	C	3 to 4	?	50 - 75	?	12 - 18	50-65
Garlic*	18 to 24"	Shallow	4-6	C/W	n/a	35	65 - 85	95	6-10	90-150
Kale	10 to 24"	Shallow	8-12	C	3 to 5	40	60 - 85	95	3-10	55-65
Kohlrabi	12 to 18"	Shallow	8	C	3 to 5	40	60 - 95	105	3-10	45-55
Lettuce	6 to 12"	Shallow	2-14	C/W	1 to 6	35	60 - 75	85	4-10	60-80
Leeks	24"	Shallow	4-6	C	2 to 3	32	65 - 85	95	7-12	100-154
Melons	2 to 8'	Medium	24-36	W	3 to 6	60	75 - 95	105	4-8	75-90
Mustard Greens	20 to 24"	Shallow	8-18	C	4	35	60 - 75	85	3-10	35-65
Okra	3 to 6'	Medium	18 to 24	W	2 to 3	60	85 - 95	105	7-14	50-60
Onions	12"	Shallow	12-18	C	1 to 2	35	65 - 85	95	10-20	50-100
Parsnips*	10 to 15"	Deep	2-3	C	1 to 3	35	65 - 75	85	20-25	100-125
Peas*	3 to 4'	Medium	2-3	C	2 to 4	40	65 - 85	85	6-15	65
Peppers	12 to 24"	Medium	18-24	W	2 to 5	60	65 - 75	95	10-20	60-75
Potatoes*	12 to 24"	Shallow	12	W	n/a	?	?	?	?	80-100
Radishes*	6 to 12"	Shallow	1-2	C	4 to 5	40	65 - 85	95	3-10	22-26
Spinach	6 to 12"	Shallow	2-4	C	1 to 5	35	65 - 75	75	6-14	45-55
Squash (Summer)	1 to 3'	Medium	18-24	W	3 to 6	60	85 - 95	105	3-12	45-70
Squash (Winter)	3 to 12'	Deep	24-36	W	4 to 6	60	85 - 95	105	6-10	80-110
Swiss Chard	12 to 18"	Medium	4-12	C	2 to 5	40	65 - 85	95	7-14	55-65
Tomatoes (vine)	6'	Deep	18	W	3 to 7	50	65 - 85	95	6-14	65-90
Tomatoes (bush)	3'	Deep	36	W	3 to 7	50	65 - 85	95	6-14	65-90

*Normally, directly sown in garden

Resources: University of California Cooperative Extension Sacramento County, University of Delaware Cooperative Extension, and Washington State University Extension

GUIDE FOR SPRING SEED STARTING

Vegetable	# of weeks to SI before last frost	Safe time to transplant or DS (relative to last frost)
Artichoke	8	on frost-free date
Basil	6	1 week after
Beets*	4 to 6	2 weeks before
Broccoli	4 to 6	2 weeks before
Cabbage	4 to 6	4 weeks before
Cauliflower	4 to 6	2 weeks before
Celery	10 to 12	1 week after
Collards	4 to 6	4 weeks before
Corn*	2 to 4	0 to 2 weeks after
Cucumber	3 to 4	1 to 2 weeks after
Eggplant	8 to 10	2 to 3 weeks after
Kale	4 to 6	4 weeks before
Kohlrabi	4 to 6	4 weeks before
Leeks	8 to 10	2 weeks before
Lettuce	4 to 5	3 to 4 weeks before
Melons	3 to 4	2 weeks after
Mustard	4 to 6	4 weeks before
Okra	4 to 6	2 to 4 weeks after
Onions	8 to 10	4 weeks before
Peas*	3 to 4	6 to 8 weeks before
Peppers	8	2 weeks after
Spinach	4 to 6	3 to 6 weeks before
Summer Squash	3 to 4	2 weeks after
Swiss Chard	4 to 6	2 weeks before
Tomatoes	6 to 8	1 to 2 weeks after
Watermelon	3 to 4	2 weeks after
Winter Squash	3 to 4	2 weeks after

SI = Start indoors DS = Direct sow

*Normally, directly sown in garden



COLD TOLERANCE OF FALL VEGETABLE CROPS

Crop	Days to maturity	Cold hardiness
Basil	30-60	Killed by frost
Beets	50-60	Survives high 20s
Bush Beans	45-65	Killed by frost
Broccoli	50-70	Survives light frost
Brussels sprouts	90-100	Survives down to 20
Cabbage	50-90	Survives down to 20
Cauliflower	60-80	Survives light frost
Cilantro	60-70	Survives light frost
Collard greens	40-65	Survives down to 20
Garlic	Harvest the following July	Overwinters in ground
Green onion	60-70	Survives high 20s
Kale	40-65	Survives down to 20
Kohlrabi	50-60	Survives light frost
Leaf lettuce	40-60	Survives light frost
Mustard greens	30-40	Survives light frost
Peas	70-80	Survives high 20s
Radishes	30-60	Survives until soil freezes
Spinach	35-45	Survives light frost; may overwinter
Swiss chard	40-60	Survives light frost
Turnips	50-60	Survives light frost

Garden Goals

Use this page to plan and visualize your garden. You can sketch your entire yard to plan the layout of gardens or focus on individual beds to determine how many plants you need of each variety.

