

Planting and Harvesting Times for Garden Vegetables



This guide will help you schedule the planting of vegetable gardens so space is used efficiently.

The range of dates provided is when a gardener could sow seed or plant transplants and have the greatest chance for successful harvests.

Some crops can be planted in succession within the listed time frame (every two weeks, for example). Other crops are planted once at some point during the time frame.

If you do not wish to start transplants indoors from seed, purchase and plant transplants from the garden center within the time frame shown for "Transplant Seedlings Outdoors."

The harvest dates are based on planting on the earliest date through the latest date listed.

Crops that are not planted in succession will be harvested within that time frame, not necessarily for the entire time frame. Crops planted in succession could have sustained harvest within that time frame.

These planting and harvest dates are approximate. Many factors may cause variation in planting and harvesting times, including lateness of spring, maturity of vegetables, onset of hot weather, fall frost date, average temperatures, wetness, dryness, etc.

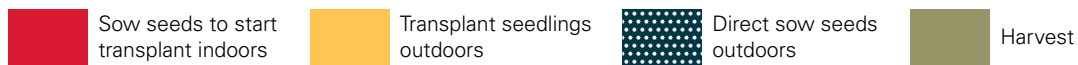
The dates listed are for Central Iowa. (Southern Iowa can shift the sowing, planting, and harvesting dates approximately one week earlier. Northern Iowa can shift the dates approximately one week later).



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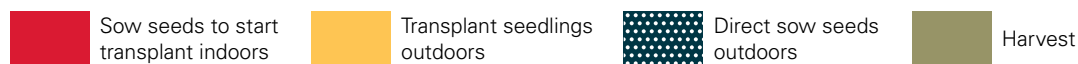
Crop		March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
Beans, Green/Snap/Wax/Pole				Direct sow seeds outdoors	Direct sow seeds outdoors	Direct sow seeds outdoors	Harvest	Harvest	Harvest	
Beans, Lima				Direct sow seeds outdoors	Direct sow seeds outdoors		Harvest	Harvest	Harvest	
Beets (stagger plantings every 4 weeks)			Direct sow seeds outdoors	Direct sow seeds outdoors	Direct sow seeds outdoors	Direct sow seeds outdoors		Harvest	Harvest	Harvest
Bok Choy	Spring and Fall Planting		Sow seeds to start transplant indoors	Sow seeds to start transplant indoors	Transplant seedlings outdoors	Transplant seedlings outdoors	Sow seeds to start transplant indoors	Sow seeds to start transplant indoors	Transplant seedlings outdoors	
Broccoli	Spring planting	Sow seeds to start transplant indoors	Transplant seedlings outdoors	Transplant seedlings outdoors	Harvest	Harvest				
	Fall Planting			Sow seeds to start transplant indoors	Sow seeds to start transplant indoors	Transplant seedlings outdoors	Transplant seedlings outdoors	Harvest	Harvest	Harvest
Brussels Sprouts				Sow seeds to start transplant indoors	Transplant seedlings outdoors			Harvest	Harvest	Harvest
Cabbage	Spring planting	Sow seeds to start transplant indoors	Transplant seedlings outdoors			Harvest	Harvest			
	Fall Planting			Sow seeds to start transplant indoors	Sow seeds to start transplant indoors	Transplant seedlings outdoors	Transplant seedlings outdoors	Harvest	Harvest	Harvest
Cabbage, Chinese/Napa		Sow seeds to start transplant indoors	Sow seeds to start transplant indoors	Sow seeds to start transplant indoors	Transplant seedlings outdoors	Transplant seedlings outdoors				
Cantaloupe	Direct Sow			Direct sow seeds outdoors	Direct sow seeds outdoors		Harvest	Harvest	Harvest	
	Transplants		Sow seeds to start transplant indoors	Transplant seedlings outdoors	Transplant seedlings outdoors		Harvest	Harvest	Harvest	
Carrots (stagger plantings every 3-4 weeks)			Direct sow seeds outdoors	Direct sow seeds outdoors	Direct sow seeds outdoors	Direct sow seeds outdoors		Harvest	Harvest	Harvest
Cauliflower	Spring planting	Sow seeds to start transplant indoors	Transplant seedlings outdoors	Transplant seedlings outdoors	Harvest	Harvest				
	Fall Planting			Sow seeds to start transplant indoors	Sow seeds to start transplant indoors	Transplant seedlings outdoors	Transplant seedlings outdoors	Harvest	Harvest	Harvest
Celeriac			Sow seeds to start transplant indoors	Sow seeds to start transplant indoors	Transplant seedlings outdoors			Harvest	Harvest	
Collards	Spring Planting	Direct Sow	Direct sow seeds outdoors	Direct sow seeds outdoors		Harvest	Harvest	Harvest	Harvest	
		Transplants	Sow seeds to start transplant indoors	Transplant seedlings outdoors	Transplant seedlings outdoors	Harvest	Harvest	Harvest	Harvest	Harvest
	Fall Planting	Direct Sow					Direct sow seeds outdoors		Harvest	Harvest
		Transplants			Sow seeds to start transplant indoors	Sow seeds to start transplant indoors	Transplant seedlings outdoors	Transplant seedlings outdoors	Harvest	Harvest
Corn, Pop				Direct sow seeds outdoors			Harvest	Harvest		
Corn, Sweet (Stagger plantings every 2 weeks)			Direct sow seeds outdoors	Direct sow seeds outdoors	Direct sow seeds outdoors	Direct sow seeds outdoors	Harvest	Harvest	Harvest	
Cucumber	Direct Sow			Direct sow seeds outdoors	Direct sow seeds outdoors	Direct sow seeds outdoors	Harvest	Harvest	Harvest	
	Transplants		Sow seeds to start transplant indoors	Transplant seedlings outdoors	Transplant seedlings outdoors	Transplant seedlings outdoors	Harvest	Harvest	Harvest	
Edamame				Direct sow seeds outdoors			Harvest	Harvest		
Eggplant		Sow seeds to start transplant indoors	Sow seeds to start transplant indoors	Transplant seedlings outdoors	Transplant seedlings outdoors		Harvest	Harvest	Harvest	
Garlic*	From cloves						Harvest	Harvest	Transplant seedlings outdoors	Transplant seedlings outdoors

* Plant garlic cloves in fall for harvest the following year

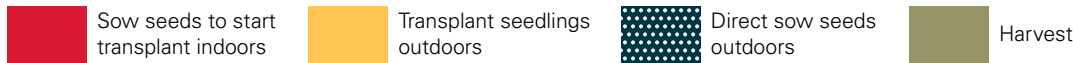


Crop			March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
Kale	Spring Planting	Direct Sow									
		Transplants									
	Fall Planting	Direct Sow									
		Transplants									
Kohlrabi	Spring Planting	Direct Sow									
		Transplants									
	Fall Planting	Direct Sow									
		Transplants									
Leek											
Lettuce, Baby Leaf and Salad Mixes (Stagger plantings every 3-4 weeks)											
Lettuce, Head	Spring and Fall Planting										
Melon, Honeydew	Direct Sow										
	Transplants										
Muskmelon	Direct Sow										
	Transplants										
Okra	Direct Sow										
	Transplants										
Onions, Dry	From Plants										
	Direct Sow										
	Sets										
Onions, Green and Scallions	From Plants										
	Direct Sow										
	Sets										
Parsnips*											
Peas	Spring and Fall Planting										
Peppers											
Potatoes	From Tuber Pieces										
Potatoes, new	From Tuber Pieces										
Pumpkin	Direct Sow										
	Transplants										
Radicchio/Escarole/Endive	Spring Planting										
	Fall Planting										
Radish (Stagger plantings every 7-10 days)	Spring and Fall Planting										
Radish, Winter/Diakon	Spring/Fall Planting										
Rutabaga											

* Parsnips can also be overwintered in garden and dug as soon as ground is workable in March



Crop		March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
Salsify										
Shallots	From Plants									
	Direct Sow									
	Transplants									
Spinach	Spring and Fall Planting									
Squash, Summer	Direct Sow									
	Transplants									
Squash, Winter	Direct Sow									
	Transplants									
Sweet potatoes	From Slips									
Swiss Chard	Spring Planting	Direct Sow								
		Transplants								
	Fall Planting	Direct Sow								
		Transplants								
Tomatillos/Ground Cherry/Husk Cherry										
Tomato										
Tomato, Cherry										
Turnips	Spring and Fall Planting									
Watermelon	Direct Sow									
	Transplants									



Related Publications

Learn more about growing vegetables at home with these resources.

[Planting a Home Vegetable Garden,](https://store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/4134)
(store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/4134)

[Starting Garden Transplants at Home,](https://store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/4183)
(store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/4183)

[Harvesting and Storing Vegetables,](https://store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/4064)
(store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/4064)

[Suggested Vegetables Varieties for the Home Garden,](https://store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/3980)
(store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/3980)

[Where to Put Your Vegetable Garden,](https://store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/4125)
(store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/4125)

[Small Plot Vegetable Gardening,](https://store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/4177)
(store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/4177)

[Container Vegetable Gardening,](https://store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/4179)
(store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/4179)

[Integrated Pest Management for Home Gardens and Landscapes,](https://store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/5694)
(store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/5694)

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For More Information

[Iowa State University Extension Store](https://store.extension.iastate.edu)
(store.extension.iastate.edu)

[Yard and Garden Website](https://yardandgarden.extension.iastate.edu)
(yardandgarden.extension.iastate.edu)

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