



# Vegetable Planting Dates

Zone 5b surrounding Chicago, Zone 6a (a small oval east of I-294 close to the lake)

## VERY HARDY VEGETABLES Cool-Season crops

Asparagus, crowns (Crowns Out Mar 25-April 10)	Onion, seed (Long day variety only) In Garden March-June
Brussels sprouts <sup>F1</sup> In June 1-30 / Out Jul 1-15	Onion, sets In Garden April 1-25
Cabbage <sup>F1</sup> In Mar 1-Apr 1/ Out Apr 15 -May 15	Pea In Garden April 1-25
Collard <sup>F1</sup> In Mar 1-Apr 1/ Out Apr 15 -May 15	Potato, Irish (Seed pieces) In Garden Apr 10-15 or June 1-5
Kohlrabi In Mar 1-Apr 1/ Out Apr 15-May 15 (In Garden successive Apr 10-Jul 20)	Radish In Garden Mar 15-Apr 15; Fall: Jul 20-30
Leek, seed In Feb/ Out Apr 10	Rhubarb, plants (Plants) In Garden Mar 25
Lettuce, Leaf In Mar 15-May 10 L / Out Apr 10-May 10 (Successive In Garden Apr 10-May 10; Fall: Jul 15-Aug 20)	Rutabaga In Garden Apr 1-15; (Fall: In Garden Jun 25-July 5)
Mustard greens In Garden Apr 10-25; Fall Jul 15-25	Spinach In Mar 1/ Out Mar 25 (In Garden Mar 15-Apr 1); Fall: In Garden Jul 15-Aug 15)
	Turnip In Garden Apr 1-15; Fall: Jul 10-20

## FROST-TOLERANT VEGETABLES Cool-Season crops

Beets In Apr 1-Jun 15/ Out May 1-Jul 15 (BEST In Garden after Apr 1-Jul 1)	Leek In Feb/ Out late May
Broccoli <sup>F2</sup> In Mar 10-Mar 25/ Out Apr 15 to May 10	Lettuce, head In Mar 1-Apr 5 L / Out Apr 15-Jun 10
Carrot In Garden only Apr 15-Jul 5	Salsify (Sandy or muck soil 24" deep; not recommended in clay soils.)
Cauliflower <sup>F2</sup> In Mar 25-Apr 5/ Out May 1-Jun 25 (In Garden Apr 10)	Parsley In Mar 15-Apr 30/ Out May 10-June 15
Chard, Swiss <sup>F2</sup> In Mar 25/ Out May 15 (BEST In Garden after Mar 25)	Parsnip In Garden Apr 25-May 15
Chinese cabbage In Mar 10/ Out Apr 25 (Fall In June 1/ Out Jun 25-Jul 5)	

## TENDER VEGETABLES Warm-Season

Bean, snap In Garden May 15 or when ***Temp above 55° F; plant every two weeks until Jul 15	New Zealand Spinach (Hot weather Spinach substitute) In Garden May 10-30
Corn, sweet In Garden Apr 15-May 30	Tomato In Apr 1-May 1/ Out May 10-June 5

## WARM LOVING VEGETABLES Warm-Season

Bean, lima In Garden May 25 when ***Temp above 55° F; Plant every two weeks until Jul 10)	Okra In May 1/ Out May 30 (Fall: In Garden June 25 to July 5.)
Cucumber In peat pots Apr 25/ Out May 25 (or In Garden May 15-30)	Pepper In peat pots Apr 5-20/ Out May 20-Jun 10
Eggplant In Apr 5-20 / Out May 20-Jun 10	Potato, sweet (Slips) In Garden May 25
Gourds In peat pots May 10/ Out May 25-Jun 5 (In Garden May 25-Jun 1)	Pumpkin In peat pots Apr 30/ Out May 25 (or In Garden)
Muskmelon In peat pots Apr 25-May 5/ Out May 20-Jun 15 (Or In Garden May 25- June 1)	Squash, (Summer or Winter) In peat pots Apr 30/ Out May 25 (Or In Garden May 1-Jun 5)
	Watermelon In peat pots Apr 25-May 5/ Out May 20-Jun 15 (or In Garden)

Sow seed indoors on **In date**, move plants to garden on **Out date**. L means needs light to germinate. Sow seed directly in garden on **in garden** dates listed at the top of each section. Check references for specific other requirements. Check weather; adjust planting dates to predicted last frosts. Harden off plants before setting in garden. More information at <http://urbanext.illinois.edu/veggies/> ; <http://urbanext.illinois.edu/firstgarden/> ; <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/cook/>

<sup>F1</sup> Fall: In Garden June 1-5 <sup>F2</sup> Fall: In Garden June 25 to July 5 \*\*\*Temp: Plant when daily air temperatures stays above 55 degrees Fahrenheit (and the soil has warmed.) In peat pots—transplants poorly from other containers. Plant 3"-4" peat pots directly into soil. Tear off pot top so peat does not stick above soil level and wick away moisture. *References: Ball Culture Guide, 1999; From Seed to Bloom, 1995; Illinois Master Gardener Manual, 2000; Month-by-Month Gardening in Illinois, 1999.*

University of Illinois Extension in Cook County 2022



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