

SUSTAINABLE GARDENING

FOR SCHOOL AND HOME GARDENS

Sustainable Gardening Planting Guide



Create a Sustainable Garden by improving soil health, relying on locally available materials and resources, and practicing environmentally sound horticultural practices

Louisiana Sustainable Planting Guide for School and Home Gardens

How to use this guide: 1) Find your crop 2) If your crop is within the proper planting times for success, decide if you will direct seed or grow or buy transplants. Time required for producing transplants is given in weeks, as is how deep to plant if seeding in the field or trays and how far apart to put plants or seeds from neighbors within a row or the distance from rows of like plants. Days to Harvest informs when to expect to pick the first vegetable from a direct seeded or transplanted crop (in parentheses). Knowing the Plant Family helps with planning crop rotations to reduce potential future disease in the garden.

Crop	North/Central Planting Dates ^a	South Planting Dates ^a	Planting Method ^b	Seed Depth (inch)	Plant Spacing (inches)	Row Spacing (inches)	Days to Harvest ^c	Plant Family
Artichoke	Aug.-Oct.		T (6-8) or DS	½	30-36	36-48	180-200	Asteraceae
Arugula	Sept.-March	Sept.-March	DS	¼	3-4	10	35-60	Brassicaceae
Asparagus	Feb.15-April 15	Feb.-April 15	Crowns (roots)	6-12	12-14	48-60	2-3 years	Asparagaceae
Bean: Snap (Bush)	March 15-May 15 July 15-Sept.	March-May 15 July 15-Sept.	DS	1	2-4	18 Double set	45-60	Fabaceae
Bean: Snap (Pole)	March 15-May 15 July 15-Sept.	March-May 15 July 15-Sept.	DS	1	6-12	36-48	50-70	Fabaceae
Beet	Feb.-March Sept. 15-Nov. 15	Jan. 15-March 15 Aug. 15-Nov. 15	DS	⅛-¼	2-4	10-12 Double set	50-70	Chenopodiaceae
Blueberries	Bare root: Nov.-Feb. Container: Nov.-May		T	NA	6-8 feet	10-12 feet	2-3 years	Ericaceae
Broccoli	Feb.-March 15 Aug.-Oct.	Jan. 15-March 15 Aug.-Oct.	T (5-7)	⅛-¼	10-24	12-24 Double set	75-100 (50-70)	Brassicaceae
Brussels Sprouts	Feb.-March 15 Aug.-Oct.	Jan. 15-March 15 Aug.-Oct.	T (5-7)	⅛	9-16	24	90-120	Brassicaceae
Cabbage	Jan. 15-March 15 Aug.-Nov.	Jan. 15-March 15 Aug. 15-Nov.	T (6) or DS	¼-½	9-18	12-36 Double set	85-110 (70-90)	Brassicaceae
Cabbage: Chinese	Jan. 15-March 15 Aug.-Oct.		T (6) or DS	¼-½	6-12 full size 2-4 baby	18 full size 3 baby Double set	70-100 (40-70)	Brassicaceae
Cantaloupe^d	April-July	March 15- Aug. 15	DS	½	12-36 or hills	60-72	85-110 (70-90)	Cucurbitaceae
Carrot	Jan. 15-March Sept.-Oct. 15	Jan. 15-March 15 Sept.-Nov.15	DS	⅛-¼	1-3	10-12 Double set	70-90	Apiaceae
Cauliflower	Feb.-March 15 Aug.-Oct.	Jan. 15-March 15 Aug.-Oct.	T (5-7)	⅛-¼	18-24	24-36	75-90 (50-70)	Brassicaceae
Celery	Aug.-Feb.	Sept.-Feb.	T (8-10)	⅛	6-12	18	210	Apiaceae

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Citrus: Orange and Grapefruit	Jan.-March		T	NA	30-40 feet diameter		3-4 years	Rutaceae
Citrus: Satsuma, Tangelo, Tangerine, Mandarin	Jan.-March		T	NA	20-30 feet diameter		3-4 years	Rutaceae
Citrus: Kumquat, Lemon, Lime	Jan.-March		T	NA	15-20 feet diameter		3-4 years	Rutaceae
Collards	Jan. 15-April July 15-Nov. 15		T (4) or DS	1/8-1/4	12-18	18-24	70-90 (50-70)	Brassicaceae
Corn: Sweet	March-April	Feb.-April	DS	1/2	10-12	28	69-92	Poaceae
Cucumber: Pickling ^d	March 15-May 15 July 15-Aug.	March-May 15 Aug.-Sept. 15	DS	1/2-3/4	6-8	36-48	45-65	Cucurbitaceae
Cucumber: Slicers ^d	March 15-May 15 July 15-Aug.	March-May 15 Aug.-Sept. 15	DS	1/2-3/4	9-12	36-72	45-65	Cucurbitaceae
Eggplant	April 1-May 15 Aug.	March 15-May 15 Aug.-Sept.	T (8-10)	1/8-1/4	18-36	30-36	90-115 (70-90)	Solanaceae
Endive	Jan.-Feb. Aug.-Oct.	Aug.-Feb.	T (4)	1/4	10	18	60-80	Asteraceae
Garlic	Oct.-Nov.	Oct.-Nov.	Cloves	1	2-4	18-24	210	Amaryllidaceae
Herbs: Cool season ^f	Sept.-Oct. Feb.-March	Sept.-Oct. Jan. 15-March	T (6-8) or DS	1/8	12-24	10-12	30-200	Various
Herbs: Warm season ^f	March 20-May	March-May	T (6-8) or DS	1/8	12-24	10-12	30	Various
Kale	Jan. 15-April July 15-Nov. 15		T (4) or DS	1/8-1/4	8-12	18	70-90 (50-70)	Brassicaceae
Kohlrabi	Sept.-March	Oct.-March	T (4)	1/8	9-12	24	55-75	Brassicaceae
Leeks	February Sept. 15-Oct.	January Sept. 15-Oct.	DS or sets	1/4	4	14	120-150	Amaryllidaceae
Lettuce	Jan.-Feb. Sept.-Oct.	Sept.-Feb.	T (4) or DS	1/8-1/4	4-14	12-18	60-80 (45-60)	Asteraceae

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Mustard greens	Feb.-March 15 Aug.-Sept.	Feb.-March 15 Aug.-Oct.	DS	1/8	3-4	10	35-42	Brassicaceae
Okra	April-July	March-Aug.	DS	1/2	10-12	36	60	Malvaceae
Onions	Feb. Sept. 15-Nov. 15	Feb. Sept. 15-Nov. 15	DS or sets	1/2-1	4-6	14	135-210	Amaryllidaceae
Onions: Bunching	Aug.-March	Aug.-March	DS or sets	1/4	6	14	50-75	Amaryllidaceae
Peas: Snow and English	Feb.-March	Nov.-Feb.	DS	1/2	2-6	18	60-70	Fabaceae
Peas: Southern	April-July	March-Aug.	DS	1/2	2-6	18	70-80	Fabaceae
Peppers: Hot	April-May July-Aug.	March 15-May 15 July-Aug. 15	T	1/8	12-18	36	70	Solanaceae
Peppers: Sweet	April-May 15 July-Aug. 15	March 15-May 15 July-Aug. 15	T (6-8) or DS	1/8	12-18	36	90-100 (55-75)	Solanaceae
Potatoes: Irish^g	Feb.-March Sept. 15-Oct. 15	Jan.-Feb Sept. 15-Oct.	tubers	4-6	10-12	36	90-120	Solanaceae
Potatoes: Sweet	May-June	April-June	slips	N/A	12	36	90-120	Convolvulaceae
Radish	Feb.-March Aug.-Oct.	Jan. 15-March Sept.-Oct.	DS	1/8	1-2	6	20-60	Brassicaceae
Rutabaga	Feb.-March 15 July 15-Oct. 15	Jan.-March 15 July 15-Oct. 15	DS	1/8	4-8	12	120	Brassicaceae
Shallots	July-Feb.	July-Feb.	bulbs	1	6-8	12	50	Amaryllidaceae
Spinach^e	Feb.-March Oct.-Nov. 15	Jan. 15-March Sept. 15-Nov. 15	DS	1/4	4-6	12	40-60 full size 25-35 baby	Chenopodiaceae
Squash: Summer^d	March 15-Aug.	March-Sept. 15	DS	1	12-24	36-48	40-50	Cucurbitaceae
Squash: Winter/ Pumpkins^{d**}	March 15-June	March-June	DS	1	Bush: 24-36 Semi: 24-48 Vining: 48-60	Bush: 60-72 Semi: 72-96 Vining: 96-120	85-120	Cucurbitaceae
Strawberry	Sept. 15-Nov. 15	Sept. 25-Nov. 25	T	NA	12	Double set	90-100	Rosaceae

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Swiss Chard	Jan. 15-April Aug. 15-Oct.		T (4) or DS	1/8-1/4	6-12	18	45-65	Chenopodiaceae
Tomato	March 20-May	March-May	T (6-8) or DS	1/8	Determinate: 12-24 Indeterminate: 24-36	Determinate: 48-60 Indeterminate: 60-72	90-110 (60-85)	Solanaceae
Turnip	Sept.-Feb.	Aug.-Feb.	DS	1/8	3-6	12	40-50	Brassicaceae
Watermelon^d	March 15-June	March-July 5	DS	1-2	24-60 or hills	72-144	80-100 (60-90)	Cucurbitaceae

^a North/Central region includes Zones 8A and 8B. South region includes Zones 9A and 9B. Use this site to determine your plant hardiness zone: planthardiness.ars.usda.gov.

^b Recommended planting method T = transplant and DS = direct-seed. Values in parentheses indicate the number of weeks before the outdoor planting dates that seeds may be started inside as transplants.

^c Days from seed to harvest; values in parentheses are from transplant (T) to harvest.

^d Transplants are also possible for these crops, although it is recommended to direct-seed. Due to rapid growth it is recommended to start seeds only 2-4 weeks before planting outside, otherwise seedlings may become stunted, too large for successful transplanting, and the transplants may have already started flowering and plants will not grow properly. In addition, using cell containers is also recommended.

^e Spinach does not often germinate well in garden beds and requires special care. Transplants are an option. Do not seed into media (or soil) with temperature over 85 F as this reduces germination.

^f Cool season herbs are parsley, cilantro, dill, oregano, garlic, fennel, chives. Warm season herbs are basil, thyme, mint, sage, catnip, rosemary.

^g Fall potatoes may have season cut short by frost and only produce small to medium tubers. Frost protection recommended.

** For Halloween pumpkins plant June 15-July 10.

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PUB3761-A (online) 3/25

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