

SPRING SEED STARTING SCHEDULE

Frost-free date in your garden: _____

Using the dates below calculate the "setting-out dates" and "when to start indoors" dates:

| Crop | Safe setting-out dates (relative to frost-free date) | Setting-out dates | Weeks to transplant | When to start indoors | Helpful tips |
|-------------------|---|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Asparagus | 4 weeks after (seedlings) 2 to 4 weeks before (crowns) | | 12 to 14 | | Set in trenches 6-10 inches deep |
| Basil | 1-6 weeks after | | 6 | | Can direct seed when soil is warm after last frost |
| Beans, Fava | 7 weeks before | | Not applicable | | Direct seed |
| Beans, Lima | 1-2 weeks after | | 3 to 4 | | Handle with care; can direct seed 2 weeks after last frost |
| Beans, Snap | 8 weeks after | | 3 to 4 | | Treat roots gently; can direct seed anytime after last frost |
| Beets | 4 weeks before | | 3 | | Disturb roots as little as possible; can direct seed 2-4 weeks after last frost |
| Broccoli | 4 weeks before to 2-3 weeks after | | 6 to 8 | | Transplants well; can direct seed 4-6 weeks before last frost |
| Brussels Sprouts | 4 weeks before to 3 weeks after | | 6 to 8 | | Can also figure seed-starting date by counting back 120 days |
| Cabbage | 5 weeks before to 2-3 weeks after | | 6 to 8 | | Set out earlier with protection; can direct seed about time of last frost |
| Carrots | 4 weeks before | | 5 to 6 | | Handle transplants carefully; can direct seed 4-6 weeks after last frost |
| Cauliflower | 4 weeks before to 2 weeks after | | 6 to 8 | | Transplants well |
| Celeriac | Anytime after | | 8 | | Use transplants to get a head start on season |
| Celery | 3 weeks before to 4 weeks after | | 6 to 8 | | Set out when the temperature is above 50°F; direct seed only with long season |
| Chinese Cabbage | 4-6 weeks before | | 4 | | Use transplants only |
| Chives | Anytime after | | 6 to 8 | | Can plant divisions as soon as soil is workable |
| Collards | 4 weeks before to 2 weeks after | | 6 to 8 | | Can direct seed 3-4 weeks before last frost |
| Corn | 2-3 weeks after | | 4 | | Can direct seed early types 2 weeks after last frost; others 4 weeks after |
| Cucumber | 2 weeks after | | 2 to 3 | | Handle carefully; can direct seed 1-2 weeks after last frost |
| Dill | Anytime after | | 8 to 10 | | Handle carefully; can direct seed anytime after last frost |
| Eggplant | 2-3 weeks after | | 8 to 10 | | Pre-warm soil with plastic mulch |
| Endive & Escarole | 4 weeks before to 2 weeks after | | 4 to 5 | | Can direct sow 2-4 weeks before last frost |
| Garlic | 2-4 weeks before to 1 week after | | 4 to 6 | | Set point 1 inch deep; can plant directly 4-6 weeks before last frost |
| Kale | 5 weeks before to 2 weeks after | | 6 to 8 | | Can direct seed 4-6 weeks before last frost |
| Kohlrabi | 5 weeks before to 2 weeks after | | 6 to 8 | | Can direct seed 4-6 weeks before last frost |
| Leeks | 5 weeks before to 2 weeks after | | 4 to 6 | | Use transplants to get a head start on season |

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|--|----------------|--|--|
| Lemon Balm | Anytime after | | 8 to 10 | | Can use cuttings or root divisions for quick growth |
| Lettuce | 2 weeks before to 3 weeks after | | 4 to 6 | | Direct seed some plants to stagger harvest |
| Mustard | 5 weeks after | | 4 to 6 | | Can direct seed 2-4 weeks before last frost |
| Okra | 3-4 weeks after | | 6 to 8 | | Handle carefully; can direct seed after last frost when soil has warmed to 50°F |
| Onions, bunching | 4-5 weeks before to 2 weeks after | | 4 to 6 | | Direct seed 4-6 weeks before last frost; use sets/seedlings for last starts |
| Onions, bulb | 6 weeks before to 2 weeks after; anytime after for sets | | 4 to 6 | | Direct seed 4-6 weeks before last frost; use sets/seedlings for last starts |
| Oregano | 2 weeks after | | 2 to 3 | | Use stem cuttings or divisions for last starts; direct seed anytime after frost |
| Parsley | 4-6 weeks before to 4-6 weeks after | | 4 to 6 | | Can direct seed 2-4 weeks before last frost |
| Parsnips | 4 weeks before to 4 weeks after | | 4 to 6 | | Handle carefully; can direct seed 2-4 weeks before last frost |
| Peas | 4 weeks before to 3 weeks after | | 4 | | Handle transplants carefully; can direct seed 4-6 weeks before last frost |
| Peppers | 2-3 weeks after | | 6 to 8 | | Transplants well |
| Potatoes | 2-4 weeks before | | Not applicable | | Plant seed potatoes with 12-inch sprouts for good yields |
| Pumpkins | 4 weeks after | | 4 | | Handle carefully; can direct seed anytime after last frost |
| Radishes | 4-6 weeks before | | Not applicable | | Direct seed |
| Rosemary | Anytime after | | 8 to 10 | | Use stem cuttings for a better start; direct seed anytime after last frost |
| Sage | Anytime after | | 6 to 8 | | Use cuttings/divisions for fast starts; can direct seed anytime soil is workable |
| Spinach, Malabar | Anytime after | | 8 to 10 | | Can direct seed 1 week after last frost |
| Spinach, New Zealand | Anytime after | | 4 to 6 | | Can direct seed anytime after last frost |
| Spinach, other | 3-6 weeks before | | 4 to 6 | | Handle carefully; can direct seed 4-6 weeks before last frost |
| Squash, winter & summer | 3-4 weeks after | | 4 | | Handle carefully; can direct seed 1 week after last frost |
| Savory | Anytime after | | 8 to 10 | | Can direct seed as soon as soil can be worked |
| Sweet Potatoes | 2-3 weeks after | | 6 to 8 | | Can also start from purchased slips |
| Swiss Chard | 3-4 weeks before | | 4 | | Handle carefully; can direct seed 2-4 weeks before last frost |
| Thyme | Anytime after | | 8 to 10 | | Use root divisions for fast starts; can direct seed when soil is workable |
| Tomatoes | 4 weeks after | | 6 to 10 | | Set out earlier with protection; direct seed where season is long |
| Turnips | 4 weeks before | | 3 to 4 | | Handle carefully; can direct seed 4-6 weeks before last frost |