



Low Desert Planting & Harvest Calendar

Brought to you by the Urban Farm, Matt Suhr and Greg Peterson
 For information on classes and events offered on gardening and sustainability visit
 our website at www.urbanfarm.org and add yourself to our email newsletter
 or email Greg@urbanfarm.org or to contact Matt Suhr - happydirt@earthlink.net

K E Y

-  = Main harvest
-  = Potential extended harvest season
- XX** = Ideal planting time
- X** = Good planting time
- *** = Can be planted (with protective measures)
- t** = Set out transplants

Crop	Hardiness Temp	J	J	F	F	M	M	A	A	M	M	J	J	J	J	A	A	S	S	O	O	N	N	D	D	Comments				
		A	A	E	E	A	A	P	P	A	A	U	U	U	U	U	U	E	E	C	C	O	O	V	V		E	C		
		1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15					
Artichoke-- Globe	20	* t	* t	t	t													X	X	xx	X	X	* t	* t	* t	Light frost helps first year harvest.				
-- Jerusalem	< 0	X	X	X	X	X	X	X																		Can be invasive.				
Arugula	15	XX	XX	X														*	X	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	May be planted thickly.				
Asparagus	< 0			*	X	XX	XX	X	X	*									t	t	t	t				Don't harvest until 3rd year.				
Basil	32	XX	XX	XX	XX	X	t	X	t	X	t	X	X	X	X	X	X								X	X	Start indoors in winter.			
Bean--Blackeye	32					X	X	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	X	X	X	*									Performs well in full summer heat.			
--Fava	20																		*	XX	XX	XX	X				Dislikes heat.			
--Garbanzo	25	*	X	X	*														*	XX	XX	X	X	*	*		Stays low to ground.			
--Green snap	32				*	XX	XX	*							X	XX	*										Seed will rot if planted in cold soil.			
--Lentil	25	*	X	X	*														*	XX	XX	X	X	*	*		Harvest entire plant and thresh when dry.			
--Lima	32				*	X	XX	X	*					*	X	X	X										Does best with trellis.			
--Pinto	32				*	XX	XX	*	*						X	X	*										Harvest entire plant and thresh when dry.			
--Soy	32				*	XX	XX	*	*						X	X	*										Use special varieties for edamame.			
--Yardlong	32					X	X	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	X	X	X	*										Black-seeded types do best.			
Beet	25	X	XX	XX	X	*												*	X	XX	XX	XX	X	*	*	*	Be sure to thin if you want big beets.			
Bok Choy	22	* t	* t																*	X	XX	XX	XX	X	t	X	t	X	t	Bolts quickly in Spring.
Broccoli--head	25																		X	XX	XX	X	t	X	t	* t	* t	t	Light frost improves flavor.	
--Raab	25	X	XX	X															*	X	XX	XX	XX	X	X	X	X	Pick frequently to maintain production.		
--Romanesco	27																		*	XX	XX	X	t	X	t	* t	* t		Allow 15" spacing between plants.	
Brussels Sprout	22														*	XX	XX	X	*	t	t	t						Only early hybrids do well. "Oliver" is best.		
Cabbage--Chinese	24																		*	X	XX	XX	XX	X	t	X	t	* t	t	Heads form quickly. Be sure to thin.
--standard	26	t																	*	XX	XX	XX	XX	X	t	X	t	* t	t	Red varieties take a little longer to head.
Carrot	23	X	XX	XX	X														*	X	XX	XX	X	X	X	X	X	Slow to sprout--mix in a few radish seeds.		
Cauliflower	27																		*	XX	XX	X	t	X	t	* t	* t		Fold leaves over exposed heads.	
Celery	28														*	X	X	X	*	t	t	t						Often stringy and bitter in desert conditions.		
Cilantro	28	X	XX	X	*														*	X	XX	XX	X	X	X	X	X	Flowers attract beneficial insects.		
Collards	25	X	X	*															*	X	XX	XX	X	X	X	X	X	Light frost improves flavor.		
Corn--flour	32				*	XX	XX	X	*			*	X	X	XX	X												Allow to totally dry on stalk.		
--ornamental	32				*	XX	XX	X	*			*	X	X	XX	X												Plant in blocks for good pollination.		
--popcorn	32				*	XX	XX	X	*			*	X	X	XX	X												Harder kernals than flour corn.		
--sweet	32				*	XX	XX	X	*					*	X	XX	XX	*										Supersweet var. need very warm soil to sprout.		
Cucumber--Armenian	32				*	XX	XX	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	*											Withstands heat better than standard types.		
--standard	32			*	*	XX	X	X	*					*	XX	X												Harvest frequently for best quality.		
Dill	27	X	X	X															*	X	XX	X	X	X	X	X	X	Very easy from seed. Does not transplant well.		
Eggplant	32	XX	XX	XX	X	X	t	X	t	X	t	X	X	X	X	X	*									*	X	Best production in Fall.		
Endive	25																		*	*	X	XX	XX	X	X	*			Pull leaves over center to blanch.	
Fennel--bulbing	27	X	XX	XX	X	*													*	*	X	XX	XX	X	X	X	X	Can be harvested at any size.		
--herb	25	X	XX	X	*														*	X	XX	XX	X	X	X	X	X	Flowers attract beneficial insects.		

Crop	Hardiness Temp	JAN	JAN	FEB	FEB	MAR	MAR	APR	APR	MAY	MAY	JUN	JUN	JUL	JUL	AUG	AUG	SEP	SEP	OCT	OCT	NOV	NOV	DEC	DEC	Comments
		1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	
Garlic	10																	*	X	XX	XX	XX	X	*	*	Harvest when tops die back.
Jicama	32				*	X	XX	XX	X	X	X	X	X	X	*											Does well with trellis.
Kale	22	X	XX	XX	X												*	X	XX	XX	XX	XX	X	X	X	Pick outer leaves for continual harvest.
Lavender	0			t	t	t												*	X	XX	X	*				Needs sandy soil.
Leek	15	X	X	X	*													*	XX	XX	XX	X	X	X	X	Pile dirt over stalks to blanch.
Lettuce--head	28	X	XX	X	*													*	X	XX	XX	X	X	X	X	Allow 8-12" per plant for big heads.
--leaf	28	X	XX	XX	X	*												*	XX	XX	XX	XX	X	X	X	Won't sprout in hot soil.
Melons	32				*	XX	XX	XX	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	*										Rich soil, lots of H2O, lots of room.
Mint	< 0	t	t	t	t	t	t														t	t	t	t	t	Can be invasive. Doesn't come true from seed.
Mizuna	25	X	X	*	*													*	X	XX	XX	XX	XX	X	X	Good as baby greens or full-size.
Mustard Greens	27	X	X	*														*	X	XX	XX	XX	X	X	X	Light frost improves flavor.
Okra	32					X	XX	XX	XX	X	X	X	X	X	X	*										Pick frequently to maintain production.
Onion--bulb	15	t	t															*	X	XX	XX	X	X	t	t	Harvest when tops die back. Use short-day type.
--multiplier	15	t	t	t	t	t												t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	Don't produce seed. Divide to propagate.
--scallion	15	X	X	X	X	*												*	XX	XX	X	X	X	X	X	Use long-day type.
Oregano	<0	t	t	t	t														t	t	t	t	t	t	t	Keep flowers trimmed for best leaf production.
Parsley	20	X	XX	X	*													*	XX	XX	XX	X	X	X	X	Very slow to germinate. Otherwise easy.
Parsnip	25	*																*	XX	XX	X	X	X	X	X	Dig root before flower stalks form.
Pea--English	26	X	XX	XX	*													*	X	XX	XX	XX	XX	X	X	Does best with trellis. Blooms are frost-tender.
--Snap	26	X	XX	XX	*													*	X	XX	XX	XX	XX	X	X	Does best with trellis. Blooms are frost-tender.
--Snow	26	X	XX	XX	*													*	X	XX	XX	XX	XX	X	X	Does best with trellis. Blooms are frost-tender.
Pepper	32	XX	XX	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X									*	X	Start indoors in winter. Best harvest in Fall.
Potato	32	*	t	t	t	*																				Harvest when in full bloom. Red potatoes do best.
Pumpkin	32				*	XX	XX	XX	X	X	X	X	X	XX	X	*										Plant June 15 for Halloween.
Radish	25	XX	XX	X	X	*												*	X	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	Do best when day-length is short.
Rutabaga	26																	*	X	XX	XX	X	X	*		Harvest before flower stalks form.
Sage	< 0			X	t	X	t	t										*	X	X	X	t	X	t	t	Many varieties with different requirements.
Spinach	22	XX	XX	X	X	*												*	X	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	Bolts quickly in Spring.
Squash--summer	32				*	XX	XX	XX	XX	X	X	X	X	X	X	XX	XX	*								Pick frequently to maintain production.
--winter	32				*	XX	XX	XX	X	X	X	X	X	XX	X	*										The longer they are left on the vine, the sweeter.
Sunflower	32				X	XX	XX	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	XX	XX	*									Quite drought-tolerant
Sweet Potato	32				*	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t											Cure tubers in warm place before storage.
Swiss chard	26	X	XX	XX	X	*												*	*	X	XX	XX	XX	X	X	Pick outer leaves for continual harvest.
Thyme	< 0	t	X	t	X	t	t											*	X	t	X	t	t	t	t	Prefers sandy soil.
Tomatillo	32	X	XX	XX	X	X	t	X	t	X	t	X	X	X	X	XX	*									Easy.
Tomato	32	XX	XX	X	t	t	t	t					X	X	X								*	X	X	Do best with 30-50% shade cloth.
Turnip	25	XX	XX	XX	X													*	*	X	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	Best flavor in cool weather.
Watermelon	32				*	XX	XX	XX	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	*										Rich soil, lots of H2O, lots of room.

Hardiness Note Hardiness temperature, in degrees Fahrenheit, is the point at which damage occurs in exposed plants. Extent of damage depends on length of exposure, as well as micro-environmental factors. Covering plants with frost cloth can give anywhere from 2 to 10 degrees of extra protection. Coverings are most effective when suspended close to, but not in contact with, the plant.

Microclimates The exact season of growing depends greatly on your particular microclimate. A microclimate is any area of your yard that is warmer or cooler than the rest of the yard such as planting next to a block wall that retains heat into the night. Many frost sensitive plants can be grown through the winter in milder Valley locations, though with slower growth rates. Likewise, with appropriate shading many heat-sensitive crops can be grown into the summer months in outlying areas with cooler nights, though quality and vigor will be reduced.