

## **COOL SEASON/WARM SEASON CROPS**

**Cool weather crops** are leafy ones like spinach, lettuce, arugula, and greens like mustard, bok choy, collards, and chard, root vegetables like beets and carrots, onions and shallots, and legumes such as peas and fava beans.

**Warm weather crops** are mostly fruiting ones that require pollination by bees or other insects such as squash, cucumbers, tomatoes, melons and berries.

### **COOL WEATHER /SPRING**

Arugula

Spinach

Lettuce (cool season lettuce)

Fava beans

Asian greens

Brussel sprouts

onion sets/green onions

Cabbage

Peas

Beet

Kale

Collards

Chard

Cauliflower

Broccoli

Kohlrabi

potatoes-plant potato 'seed'

Carrots-plant outside seeds only (when soil warmer)

Radish-outside-seed only (when soil warmer)

Garlic-plant by cloves in either Oct of previous year or in spring

### **WARM SEASON**

Beans, bush-direct seed outside after soil is warm (think early June)

Beans, pole-direct seed outside after soil is warm (think early June)

Corn-direct seed outside after soil is warm (think early June)

Cucumber- direct seed outside after soil is warm (think early June)

Melon-direct seed outside after soil is warm (think early June)

Lettuce, heat tolerant-also called Batavian lettuces or head lettuces

New Zealand spinach

Squash-summer squash/winter squash-direct seed outside after soil is warm (think early June)

Tomato

Eggplant

Pepper

## **STARTING SEEDS INSIDE**

### **COLD SEASON CROPS-**

-Sow these seeds inside, under lights/NO HEAT MATS/transplant to 4 pack or 6 pack after germination, then put outside after they are bigger.

-Sow seeds in late February or early March. Put out in GARDEN LATE MARCH- EARLY APRIL but must have *winter weight row cover* over them at nite or 2 sheets of mid-weight row cover to protect at night. Pull back in day to get sun.

**LETTUCE**

**ARUGULA**

**SPINACH**

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**CABBAGE**

**ASIAN GREENS**

**CHARD**

**KALE**

**CABBAGE**

### **WARM SEASON CROPS**

**-sow these seeds inside, under lights/ON heat mats**

**TOMATOES**

6-8 weeks before May 15th  
March 20-April 3-sow seeds

**PEPPERS**

8-10 weeks before May 15th  
March 6-20-sow seeds-they are one of the slowest-start on earlier date

**EGGPLANTS**

8-10 weeks before May 15<sup>th</sup> March 6-20-sow seeds-they are one of the slowest-start on earlier date

## **PUMPKINS/SQUASH**

4 weeks before May 15 (planting time)

April 15-sow seeds

Other tender warm season crops such as winter squash, cucumbers, summer squash, beans, corn, and melons I wait till **AFTER June 1** and plant the seeds directly in the soil.

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## **Take Your Soil's Temperature**

One very helpful tool for small gardeners is a simple soil thermometer that can determine if your garden soil is warm enough for seed germination. There are several types of soil thermometers available-soil thermometer or compost thermometer, that can either be purchased at your local nursery or online.

To take a correct temperature, place the soil thermometer at the specific planting depth of your crop. Holes should not be too large, as incorrect readings are common when it is not in direct contact with the soil. Take several temperatures in different spots, at different times of the day and for several consecutive days to ensure accuracy. Avoid taking readings at non-representative sites, such as permanently shady spots.

Once you soil temperature reaches 40 degrees F°, you are ready to plant your first **spring crops** from seed.

## **Your First Crops**

-Lettuce, arugula, kale, parsnips, peas, spinach and radishes are all ready to be planted once the soil has achieved **the critical 40°F** mark.

-A few weeks later when the soil has warmed to **50°F**, your garden is ready for the next wave of spring plantings which include favorites like onions, leeks, Swiss chard and turnips.

Broccoli, cabbage, beans, beets, cauliflower and carrots all should wait until soil temperatures reach at least **60°F** for optimal germination rates.

Even if your soil is ready for planting, be sure to regularly monitor air temperatures in your local area and be ready to cover sensitive crops if heavy frosts or late freezes are forecast.

## **Your First Crops-plant OUTSIDE by temperatures**

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