

## FALL VEGETABLE PLANTING SCHEDULE

### FIRST-WHAT TO PLANT AND WHEN

There are a surprising number of vegetables suitable for zone 6 fall vegetable planting. Many cool-season vegetable seeds can be planted directly in the garden. The goal is to get the seedlings planted outdoors in time to take advantage of the last days of summer warmth. Look for fast-maturing vegetables for best results.

Below is a suggested list of what to plant for a fall garden. Some of these are already growing in the summer garden and will be ready to harvest soon like carrots and beets so you must decide if you want more in **late fall**. **Cool season crops are what you should plant for a fall harvest.**

Most warm season crops will not survive our cold nights when they come. Do not plant them now.

For varieties you'll need to transplant, it is recommended you start fall vegetables by seeds inside to get them off to a good start, and then transplant your crops. Plant seeds under lights, then transplant up into pony packs and then plant outside as soon as the weather cools.

All of these planting dates are estimates depending on the variety you grow. Look on your package of seeds or on the plant label for accurate harvest times and go backwards from Oct 10 for Santa Fe and add 10-15 days. **You must add more days to harvest as we get less and less sunlight as the days get shorter and crops take longer till harvestable. Grow crops with shorter days to harvest and use row cover to help extend the season and protect from cold nights.**

### JULY-AUGUST

**Asian Greens/Bok Choi/Pak Choi/Mustards-Sow seeds mid-July thru mid-August.** Can handle light frosts. Harvest days depends on variety. Look on seed package.

**Beets-Sow seeds in mid July-mid August.** Semi-hardy. Can handle freezes but must mulch with thick straw or row cover **after germination**. 45-65 days to harvest.

**Broccoli/Cauliflower-Sow seeds early July-mid July.** Can handle light frosts. 55 days to harvest

**Carrots-Sow seeds in early July-mid August.** Semi-hardy. Can handle freezes but must mulch with thick straw or row cover. 60 days to harvest.

**Chard-Sow seeds late July-mid August.** Semi-hardy. Can handle some light frosts. Cover with row cover when it gets cold to extend season. 50-60 days to harvest

**Herbs-Parsley, mint, cilantro, thyme, sage, rosemary (Aarp variety).** I would transplant these herbs not grow from seeds.

**Kale-Sow seeds early July.** The short cool days of fall are even better for kale than spring. Kale that is established will last well into winter and can survive below freezing temperatures.

**Lettuces-Sow seeds in early-mid-August.** Semi-hardy. Seedlings will need consistent moisture and shade from the afternoon sun on hot days. Cover when it gets cold to extend season but it will not survive hard freezing temps. 45 days to harvest depending on type and variety.

**Peas-Sow seeds in early-July-mid-July.** Likes cool but not freezing weather. 60-75 days to harvest.

**Radish-Sow seeds late July-August-30 days to harvest.**

## **AUGUST**

**Spinach-Sow seeds in August.** The short cool days of fall are even better for spinach than spring. Spinach-that is established will last well into winter and can survive below freezing temperatures down into the 20s **with row cover** although it will stop growing. Why doesn't it freeze? It produces an alcohol inside-alcohol won't freeze! 45 days to maturity.

**Endive, Escarole-Sow seeds early August.** Semi-hardy. The short cool days of fall are even better for these crops than spring.

**Lettuces-Cool season lettuces-Sow seeds anytime in August.** Semi-hardy. Seedlings will need consistent moisture and shade from the afternoon sun on hot days. Cover when it gets cold to extend season but most lettuce will not survive freezing temps. 45 to 60 days to harvest depending on type and variety

**Mesclun mixes–(baby mixed lettuces) Sow seeds in early-August.** Semi-hardy. Seedlings will need consistent moisture and shade from the afternoon sun on hot days. Cover when it gets cold to extend season but it will not survive freezing temps. 45 to 60 days to harvest depending on type and variety

**Arugula-Sow seeds in mid-August-late August.** Semi-hardy. Fast growing. Can handle some light frosts. 30-40 days to harvest.

**Kale-Sow more seeds mid August.** The short cool days of fall are even better for kale than planting in spring. The cool days make it sweeter.

## **SEPTEMBER**

**Garlic-Sow largest cloves anytime in late Sept to late October** before the first frost. Harvest in late-June-July following year.

## **OCTOBER**

**Garlic-Sow largest cloves anytime in late October after the first frost.** Harvest in late-June-July following year.

**Shallots-Sow largest bulbs anytime in October after the first frost.** Harvest in late-June-July following year.

**If planting late, buy them at the nurseries as transplants, you can still get good harvests.**

## **PLANT FROM SEEDS OR TRANSPLANTS**

**You can still plant from seeds**-arugula, spinach, mesclun, lettuces, radishes, carrots, mustards and Asian greens.

**Plant these as transplants**-spinach, chard, endive, beets, kale, mache (corn salad), Asian greens

---

## **SECOND-WHERE TO PLANT**

Do you have space close to your house for easy watering and harvesting as it gets colder? This is important to consider in case your main garden is far away from your home.

**First space—cold frame up by the house.** Put shade cloth over it to keep plants cooler inside. Put row cover over plants when it gets cold. Install one of those automatic vent openers that will open the lid if the temps get too hot and close it when it gets too cold. Otherwise, open by hand daily, closing at night.

**Second space- raised beds also up by the house.** The beauty of having some garden space close to the house is when it does get cold, you won't have to walk down to the main garden to water and harvest. You can just get a watering can and go right outside the house. Also, you should replace the **medium weight** row cover that keeps cool season crops under (keeps the critters and bugs away) with a heavy **weight** row cover on the beds if a sudden frost comes up. **You can also use 2 sheets of medium weight if you don't have heavy weight row cover.** The cool season crops will be picked by the time winter hits and the garlic and shallots will sleep till spring.

**Third space-Hoop houses** made on top of raised beds or ground. Easy to make. Just push rebar on the outside of your raised bed put it at an angle instead of upright-makes it easier to put PVC pipe over the rebar if it is at an angle. Use 3-5 PVC-1 inch PVC pipe Use heavy row cover over them when it gets cold-place rocks or wood like 2 x 4 scrap wood to hold it down in winds. This protects plants from freezing nights. Anyone can do this.

**Fourth space-greenhouse-** basically a walk-in cold frame.