

Late Winter & Early Spring Planting



Kale (March)

Lettuce (March)

Potatoes (March)

Peas (April)

Radishes (April)

Carrots (April)



Kale



Kale is a cool weather crop. It can be planted from seed or from plant starts. Once the temperature outside starts getting hot, kale will taste bitter so plant your kale early. Plant seeds in late February or early March and plant starts in late March or early April.

Kale Varieties:

There are many varieties of kale, but they are usually grouped by the type of leaf:

 Curly leaved

 Plain leaved



Growing Kale in a Container:

1. Choose a kale variety.
2. Choose a container size that fits your space and the amount of kale you want to grow. One kale plant need at least 12 square inches to grow.
3. Make sure your container is in a sunny spot and has holes for drainage in the bottom.
4. Fill your container with moist potting soil. Pre-moistened soil ensures plants and seeds have enough water when they are planted.
5. Plant your seeds or starts 12 inches apart. Follow the seed packet or start label for the planting depth.
6. Water your seeds or starts immediately after planting. Check soil moisture every few days and water when the top inch of soil feels dry to your finger.
7. You can begin to harvest individual leaves off the kale when the plant is approximately 8 to 10 inches high, starting with the outside leaves first. If you decide to harvest the entire plant, cut the stock two inches above the soil and the plant will sprout new leaves in 1 to 2 weeks.

The number of days from planting to harvest has many variables. Read the seed packet or plant label on the variety you choose for estimated "days to harvest".

Tip:

Winter/Spring plants typically need less water due to rain and cooler temperatures. Small containers can still become dry quickly, so it is good to check them regularly.





Lettuce



Lettuce is a cool weather crop. It can be planted from seed or from plant starts. Once the temperature outside starts getting hot, lettuce will begin to flower and seed and it can also taste bitter. Plant seeds in late February or early March, and plant starts in late March or early April.

Lettuce Varieties:

There are many varieties of lettuce. Loose leaf lettuces grow better in a pot than head lettuces. Here are a few that work well in containers.

-  Black Seeded Simpson
-  Red or green oak leaf types



Growing Lettuce in a Container:

1. Choose a lettuce variety.
2. Choose a container size that fits your space and the amount of lettuce you want to grow. Lettuce needs at least 4-6 inches of space to grow.
3. Make sure your container is in a sunny spot and has holes for drainage in the bottom.
4. Fill your container with moist potting soil. Pre-moistened soil ensures plants and seeds have enough water when they are planted.
5. Plant your seeds or starts 4-6 inches apart. Follow the seed packet or start label for the planting depth.
6. Water your seeds or starts immediately after planting. Check soil moisture every few days and water when the top inch of soil feels dry to your finger. Lettuce is made mostly of water so needs to grow in soil that remains moist.
7. You can begin to harvest individual leaves off the lettuce when the plant is approximately 6-8 inches high, starting with the outside leaves first. You can also harvest the entire plant, but it will not grow back once harvested.

*The number of days from planting to harvest has many variables.
Read the seed packet or plant label on the variety you choose for estimated "days to harvest".*

Tips:

-  Lettuce do not grow large root systems and only needs a few inches of soil to grow. Therefore, you can choose more shallow containers to plant them in.
-  If planting lettuce early, beware of freezing weather. Lettuce can be damaged quickly in low outdoor temperatures.





Potatoes



Potatoes can be grown in a container several times a year. Early March is a good time to plant the first crop. “Seed” potatoes are used to grow potatoes at home. They are available in several varieties at most nurseries. Kids have fun digging in the dirt and harvesting potatoes. They are also a favorite food of most kids. Just be sure they do not eat the green plant parts; they are toxic.

Potato Varieties:

There are many potato varieties to grow at home.

-  Russet
-  Long White or Fingerling
-  Round White
-  Red
-  Yellow
-  Blue/Purple



Growing Potatoes in a Container:

1. Choose seed potato variety.
2. Choose a deep container size that fits your space and the amount of potatoes you want to grow. A potato plant needs at least a 12 inch deep pot to grow.
3. Make sure your container is in a sunny spot and has holes for drainage in the bottom.
4. Fill your container with moist potting soil. Pre-moistened soil ensures there is enough water when potatoes are planted.
5. Plant your seed potatoes 12 inches apart.
6. Water immediately after planting. Check soil moisture every few days and water when the top inch of soil feels dry to your finger.
7. Harvest potatoes when the leaves begin to turn yellow. Dig in the soil to find all the hiding potatoes. Children love this part.

*The number of days from planting to harvest has many variables.
Read the plant label on the variety you choose for estimated "days to harvest".*



Peas



Peas are a cool weather crop. They are planted from seed and grow quickly. Once the temperature outside starts getting hot, pea plants will stop producing peas.

Peas Varieties:

Peas are another favorite for kids, especially sugar snap varieties. Peas come in climbing and bush varieties.

-  Sugar Snap
-  Snow Peas
-  English Peas



Growing Peas in a Container:

1. Choose a pea variety.
2. Choose a container size that fits your space and the amount of peas you want to grow. Pea seeds need at least 4 inches of space to grow.
3. Make sure your container is in a sunny spot and has holes for drainage in the bottom.
4. Fill your container with moist potting soil. Pre-moistened soil ensures seeds have enough water when they are planted.
5. Plant your seeds 4 inches apart and 1 inch deep. If you have a climbing variety, you will need to provide something for the pea plants to climb. Climbing peas can grow tall, so be sure the trellis has enough height. Small bamboo poles and string or an upside down tomato cage make good trellises.
6. Water your seeds immediately after planting. Check soil moisture every few days and water when the top inch of soil feels dry to your finger.
7. Harvest peas when pods are mature. Mature pods will look different depending on the variety you choose. Pods that are left on the vine too long will become tough and will lose flavor.

*The number of days from planting to harvest has many variables.
Read the seed packet or plant label on the variety you choose for estimated "days to harvest".*





Radishes



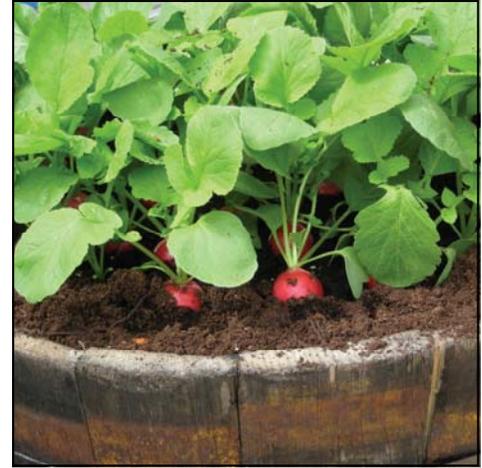
Depending on the radish variety, they are planted in early to late spring. They are planted from seed and mature quickly. Some radishes can be harvested in just 20 days after seeds are planted.

Radish Varieties:

-  **Early spring varieties** - White, Champion, Easter Egg, Plum Purple, Snow Belle
-  **Late spring varieties** - French Breakfast, Icicle

Growing Radishes in a Container:

1. Choose a radish variety. Read the seed packet carefully.
2. Choose a container size that fits your space and the amount of radishes you want to grow. Radish seeds need at least 2-4 inches of space to grow.
3. Make sure your container is in a sunny spot and has holes for drainage in the bottom.
4. Fill your container with moist potting soil. Pre-moistened soil ensures seeds have enough water when they are planted.
5. Plant your seeds according to seed packet directions.
6. Water your seeds immediately after planting. Check soil moisture every few days and water when the top inch of soil feels dry to your finger.
7. Harvest radishes when they are young and tender. You may see the top of the radish roots popping out of the soil when they are ready to harvest. Check the seed packet to see about how long it will take radishes to mature.



*The number of days from planting to harvest has many variables.
Read the seed packet or plant label on the variety you choose for estimated "days to harvest".*





Carrots



Did you know carrots come in many colors, not just orange? This can make growing carrots especially fun. Some carrot varieties grow very long and some are very short. For this reason, it is important to choose a deep container or choose a carrot variety that does not grow a long root. Carrots are grown from seeds in early spring.

Carrot Varieties:

Nantes varieties work best for home gardens:

- Scarlet Nantes, Napa, Bolero, Parano, Kaleidoscope Mix, White Satin, Cosmic Purple



Growing Carrots in a Container:

1. Choose a carrot variety. Read the seed packet carefully.
2. Choose a container size that fits your space and the variety of carrot you want to grow. Some carrots grow much longer than others. You will need a container deep enough to allow carrots to grow to their mature length.
3. Make sure your container is in a sunny spot and has holes for drainage in the bottom.
4. Fill your container with moist potting soil. Pre-moistened soil ensures seeds have enough water when they are planted.
5. Plant your seeds according to seed packet directions. Once carrot sprouts are 2 inches tall, you may need to thin, or pull some out, to make sure there is plenty of room for carrots to mature. Carrot plants need at least 2-4 inches between them.
6. Water your seeds immediately after planting. Check soil moisture every few days and water when the top inch of soil feels dry to your finger.
7. Harvest carrots when they are mature. The seed packet should tell you about how many days it will take the carrots to grow.



The number of days from planting to harvest has many variables. Read the seed packet or plant label on the variety you choose for estimated "days to harvest".



