

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

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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 60°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