

Quick-Glance Planting Chart

Zones 9 and 10

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Vegetables	LEGEND * Transplanting Preferred ○ Direct Sowing Preferred *○ Transplant or Direct Sow (see notes)												Succession (days)	Notes		
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC			Cool Season	Warm Season
	Cool			Shoulder			Warm			Shoulder			Cool			
Artichoke		*○	*○	*○	*○	*○									n/a	Short-lived perennial and large plant. Flowers attract bees! Plant in an area with ample space.
Beans, bush & pole			○	○	○	○	○	○							10	Direct sow. Requires warm soil to germinate. Soak seeds for quickened germination.
Beets * ‡	○	○	○	○	○				○	○	○	○		14	Direct sow seeds and thin for optimal spacing; thrives in cool, moist conditions.	
Broccoli	*	*	*						*	*	*	*		21	Grows best in the cool season. Start seeds in fall for optimal growth through winter and into spring.	
Cabbage	*	*	*						*	*	*	*		21	Grows best in the cool season. Start seeds in fall for optimal growth through winter and into spring.	
Carrots ‡	○	○	○	○	○				○	○	○	○		21	Rinse & soak seeds for quicker germination. Grows best in the cool season but can be grown year-round.	
Cauliflower	*	*	*						*	*	*	*		21	Grows best in the cool season. Start seeds in fall for optimal growth through winter and into spring.	
Chard * ‡	*○	*○	*○	*○	*○				*○	*○	*○	*○		30	Direct sow or transplant in moist soil; easily grown year-round in mild climates.	
Corn				*○	*○	*○	*○	*○						21	Warm season crop. Direct sow in moist soil and plant in blocks for pollination.	
Cucumbers			*○	*○	*○	*○	*○	*○						21	Warm season crop. Direct sow or transplant; prefers warm moist soil.	
Eggplant				*	*	*	*	*						n/a	Seeds require warm, moist soil to germinate. Use a heating mat if necessary.	
Fava Beans ‡	○	○	○	○	○					○	○	○		21	Overwintered bean thrives in cool weather. Chop down in late spring for a second crop.	
Fennel	○	○	○	○	○	○				○	○	○		21	Best grown in the cool season; use row cover or shade cloth to extend the growing season.	
Garlic										○	○	○		n/a	Plant in October for largest bulbs. Vernalize in fridge if growing in a warm area. Harvest in summer.	
Kale & Collards *	*○	*○	*○	*○	*○				*○	*○	*○	*○		14	Best grown in the cool season; use shade cloth in the warm season. Direct sow with reliable irrigation.	
Kohlrabi	*	*	*						*	*	*	*		10	Cool season crop; harvest when young and tender.	
Lettuce, Head ‡	*○	*○	*○	*○					*○	*○	*○	*○		10	Best grown in the cool season; use shade cloth in the warm season. Direct sow with reliable irrigation.	
Lettuce, Leaf ‡	*○	*○	*○	*○					*○	*○	*○	*○		7	Best grown in the cool season; use shade cloth in the warm season. Direct sow with reliable irrigation.	
Melons (all)				*○	*○	*○	*○	*○						21	Easy to grow in moist warm soil. Thrives in the heat!	
Mustards * ‡	*○	*○	*○	*○	*○				*○	*○	*○	*○		21	Best grown in the cool season; use shade cloth in the warm season. Direct sow with reliable irrigation.	
Okra				*○	*○	*○	*○	*○	*○					21	Thrives in heat! Easily direct sown.	
Onion (bulb), Medium Day ‡	*	*	*											n/a	Medium-day onions develop bulbs in ≤12–14 hours of daylight. Transplant and thin.	
Onion (bulb), Short Day ‡									*	*	*	*		n/a	Short-day onions develop bulbs in < 12 hours of daylight. Transplant and thin.	
Onion (green)	*	*	*	*	*					*	*	*		21	Can be grown during all months except the hottest summer months; direct sow and thin.	
Pac Choi ‡	*○	*○	*○	*○	*○				*○	*○	*○	*○		10	Heat tolerant green; thrives in cool temperatures. Easily direct seeded.	
Peas ‡	○	○	○	○						○	○	○		10	Plant in the fall to enjoy all winter. Thrives in cool, moist weather; direct sow in moist soil.	
Peppers *				*	*	*	*	*						n/a	Start seeds on a heating mat for the quickest germination; can become a perennial in mild areas.	
Pumpkin/Gourds			○	○	○	○	○							n/a	Easy to direct sow in warm soil; it thrives in the summer! Fruits store for long periods.	
Radish *	○	○	○	○	○				○	○	○	○		7	Direct sow in moist soil. Thin to appropriate spacing. Can succession plant all year long.	
Scallions	*○	*○	*○	*○	*○				*○	*○	*○	*○		21	Direct sow and thin; can be grown in all months except the hottest summer months.	
Spinach ‡§	*○	*○	*○	*○	*○					*○	*○	*○		7	Plant in fall and protect with shade cloth until cool weather arrives. It thrives in the cool season!	
Squash, Summer			○	○	○	○	○							30	Easily direct sown in warm moist soil; plant in the warm season.	
Squash, Winter			○	○	○	○	○							30	Easy to direct sow in warm soil; it thrives in the summer! Fruits store for long periods.	
Tomatillo				*○	*○	*○	*○	*○	*○					21	Transplanting preferred. Start seeds in warm soil. A heating mat will quicken germination.	
Tomato ∞				*○	*○	*○	*○	*○	*○					21	Transplanting preferred. Start seeds in warm soil. A heating mat will quicken germination.	

Herbs

Arugula * ‡	○	○	○	○	○	○			*	*	○	○		7	Easy to direct seed and grow. Thrives in cool temperatures; protect with shade cloth in heat.
Basil ‡			*	*	*	*								n/a	Easy to grow in warm, moist soil. Thrives in full sun! Prune heavily in late summer for a second crop.
Catnip				*	*	*	*	*	*					n/a	Perennial herb; easily grown year-round. Best transplanted at 4–5" tall.
Celery/Lovage ‡	*	*	*	*									*	n/a	Cool season crop. Best planted in winter and early spring; thrives in cool and moist conditions.
Chives *	*○	*○	*○	*○	*○				*○	*○	*○	*○		21	Easy to grow year-round; direct sow or transplant. Provide ample moisture and mulch in hot weather.
Cilantro	*○	*○	*○	*○	*○				*○	*○	*○	*○		14	Best grown in the cool season; use row cover or shade cloth to extend the growing season.
Dill	*○	*○	*○	*○	*○	*○				*○	*○	*○		14	Best grown in the cool season; use row cover or shade cloth to extend the growing season.
Lemon Balm	*	*	*	*	*	*	*					*	*	n/a	Can grow year-round; best transplanted at 4–5" tall. Best grown in containers to keep from taking over.
Oregano	*	*	*	*	*	*	*					*	*	n/a	Best planted in the warm season but can be grown year-round in frost-free areas.
Parsley * ‡	*○	*○	*○	*○	*○				*○	*○	*○	*○		14	Best planted in the cool season but can be grown year-round in frost-free areas.
Savory	*	*	*	*	*	*	*					*		n/a	Warm season crop that thrives in full sun. Best started in the cool of fall or winter to grow through fall.
Sorrel *	*○	*○	*○	*○	*○				*○	*○	*○	*○		n/a	This easy-to-grow green thrives in the cool season.
Sweet Marjoram *			*	*	*	*	*					*	*	n/a	Perennial herb. Transplant. Best planted in the warm season but can grow year-round in frost-free areas.
Tarragon	*	*	*	*	*	*	*					*	*	n/a	Best planted in the warm season but can be grown year-round in frost-free areas.

* Grows year round with protection (shade cloth during hot months, row cover for frost).
 ‡ Frost sensitive. Use row cover if frost expected. Start seed in protected culture.
 § May require shade cloth for hot winters.
 ∞ Can easily overwinter with low productivity. Peak seasons are spring and summer.

Factors influencing whether to transplant or direct sow

- Adequate garden space (direct sowing requires extra room for thinning)
- Ability to protect sprouts from pests, wind, rain, cold, heat, strong sunlight and evaporation
- Large-seeded crops and roots crops respond better to being directly sown (general rule)

Information presented is general in nature and not predictive of all conditions, situations and locations. Successful growers learn how conditions in their location differ from these general guidelines, and modify them to fit their situation. Others push the bounds intentionally because, well, historic climate patterns are no longer reliable. We love hearing about your successes that break the "rules"!



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LEGEND	* Transplanting Preferred			○ Direct Sowing Preferred			*○ Transplant or Direct Sow (see notes)			Cool Season	Warm Season	Not Optimal for Planting			
Flowers	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	Succession (days)	Bloom Period	Notes
	Cool		Shoulder			Warm			Shoulder	Cool					
Alyssum ‡	*	*	*	*	*	*	*			*	*	*	n/a	year-round (warm areas)	Establishes best in cool weather; can become a perennial.
Amaranth ‡ ^					*○	*○	*○	*○	*○	*○			14	year-round (warm areas)	Tiny seeds are easily direct-sown; can bloom year-round in warm areas.
Bluebell	*○	*○	*○	*○	*○	*○	*○			*○	*○	*○	n/a	spring/summer	Grows best in cool, wet weather; plant before seasonal rains.
Borage * §	*○	*○	*○	*○	*○						*○	*○	14	winter/spring	Happiest during cool, wet months; reseeds easily.
Calendula §	*○	*○	*○	*○	*○	*○					*○	*○	21	spring to summer	Enjoys cool weather to become established.
Coneflower *	*	*	*					*	*	*	*	*	n/a	spring	Seeds require cold stratification.
Cornflower * ∞ ^	*○	*○	*○	*○	*○						*○	*○	n/a	spring/summer	Easy to grow and reseeds in irrigated areas.
Cosmos ‡	*○	*○	*○	*○	*○	*○					*○	*○	n/a	spring/summer/fall	Establishes best in cool weather; can become a perennial.
Echinacea	*	*								*	*	*	n/a	spring to summer	Establishes best in cool weather; plant in early fall. Early morning harvest.
Flax ‡					○	○	○	○	○	○			21	spring/fal/winter	Tall, dainty blue flowers look best planted in clumps.
Four O'Clock ‡	○	○	○	○	○	○	○			○	○	○	n/a	spring/summer	Low-maintenance; spreads by underground tubers.
Foxglove	*	*	*	*						*	*	*	n/a	spring/summer	Tiny seeds are best transplanted in cool weather to become established.
Gaillardia * ‡	*	*	*	*	*	*	*				*	*	n/a	spring/summer/fall	Establishes best in cool weather; may bloom year-round in some areas.
Gomphrena ‡ ∞			*	*	*	*				*	*	*	n/a	spring/summer	Establishes best in cool weather; plant in early fall.
Hollyhock	*○	*○	*○						*○	*○	*○	*○	n/a	spring/summer	Perennial; establishes best in cool weather; plant in early fall.
Hyacinth Bean ‡			○	○	○	○	○	○					10	summer to fall	This stunning ornamental pole bean is easy to grow.
Hyssop *	*	*	*								*	*	n/a	late-winter/spring	Tender perennial; very easy to grow once established.
Lavender * § ∞	*	*	*	*				*	*	*	*	*	n/a	spring/summer	Seeds require exposure to warm and cold temperatures.
Lupine ‡	*○	*○	*○	*○					*○	*○	*○	*○	n/a	spring/summer	Best planted by seed before seasonal rains; reseeds in marginal areas.
Marigold ∞				*○	*○	*○		*○	*○	*○	*○	*○	21	spring/summer/fall	May require shade cloth during hot fall months.
Mexican Sunflower * ‡ ^			○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	14	year-round	Great pollinator plant! Blooms are happiest in warmer months.
Milkweed, Native *	*	*	*	*				*	*	*	*	*	n/a	spring/summer	Establishes best in cool weather; a slow grower!
Milkweed, Tropical * ‡	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	n/a	year-round	Cut back in fall to prevent disturbance of butterfly migration.
Morning Glory ‡			○	○	○	○	○				○	○	n/a	spring/summer	Aggressive grower; can choke out other crops.
Nasturtium ‡ §	○	○	○	○	○	○					○	○	n/a	year-round (cool areas)	Happiest during cool, wet months; can grow year-round in cool areas.
Nigella ∞	*○	*○	*○	*○	*○					*○	*○	*○	21	spring	Establishes best in cool weather; plant in the fall.
Poppy ‡	*○									*○	*○	*○	n/a	spring to summer	Establishes best in cool weather; plant before seasonal rains.
Sage * ‡	*	*	*	*	*	*	*				*	*	n/a	spring/summer	Establishes best in cool weather; plant in the fall.
Scabiosa * ∞	*○	*○	*○	*○	*○					*○	*○	*○	21	spring/fall	Establishes best in cool weather; year-round blooms.
Strawflower * ∞	*	*	*	*	*					*	*	*	21	spring/summer	Tiny seeds are best transplanted in cool weather to become established.
Sunflower * ∞ ^			*○	*○	*○	*○	*○	*○	*○	*○	*○	*○	14	spring/summer/fall	Plant in full-sun location; may bloom year-round in warm winters.
Sweet Pea ∞	*○	*○	*○							*○	*○	*○	15	late-winter/spring	Establishes best in cool weather; plant in early fall.
Wildflowers*	*○	*○	*○	*○	*○	*○	*○			*○	*○	*○	n/a	depends on variety	Establishes best in cool weather; plant before seasonal rains.
Yarrow ‡	*	*	*	*						*	*	*	n/a	winter/early-spring	Establishes best in cool weather; plant before seasonal rains.
Zinnia * ∞			*○	*○	*○	*○				*○	*○	*○	14	spring/summer/fall	Establishes best in the cool weather; plant late winter/early spring.

* Pollinator plant. All flowers are good for the garden, but these are super attractors of butterflies, bees and hummingbirds!

‡ Low Maintenance

§ Edible Flowers

∞ Great Cut Flower

^ Attracts Birds

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