



Northern U.S. Southern U.S. Garden Planning Grid

Region	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Central Midwest	—	—	Tomatoes & Peppers start indoors. Potted herbs indoors.	Avoid compacting soil.	—	Garden Tour time!!	Stake tomato plants and keep moist. Plan ahead for fall crops.	Plant lettuce, radish and mustard seed for fall.	—	Pick the last tomatoes now – fried green tomatoes!	—	—
Mid-Atlantic	—	—	—	Direct seed fast growers – lettuce, radish, scallions. Plant cole crops (broccoli, cabbage, etc.)	Plant warm weather edibles: tomatoes, peppers, melons, cucumbers, squash.	Mulch to conserve moisture.	—	Allow tomatoes to ripen fully. Plant fall salad greens.	Pick all tomatoes before night temps fall below 50°. Cure winter squash in the sun for 10 days – avoid frost.	—	Heap chopped leaves on vegetable gardens to encourage worm activity.	—
Mountain	—	—	Same as Central Midwest.	Add animal manure to vegetable gardens – aged at least six months.	Slowly acclimate vegetable transplants before planting – follow chart above.	—	Watch tomatoes for signs of “spotted wilt” – remove infected plants.	Plant fall vegetable garden: parsnips, kale, turnips, etc.	Ripen tomatoes indoors (paper bag). Harvest and save seeds from your favorite vegetables.	Cover tender vegetables at night to extend gardening season.	—	—
Northeast	—	—	Test soil pH: lean to acidic for vegetables (6.0 – 6.9 range). Sow seeds for spinach, radishes, lettuce and arugula.	Plant peas. Direct sow carrots, beets and kale. Start tomatoes, eggplant and peppers indoors.	Plant your own sales: tomatillos, cilantro, chili peppers.	Mulch to conserve moisture.	Check tomatoes for Aphids. Direct sow cole crops. Pick zucchini, yellow squash and cucumbers when young and tender.	Snip some foliage off tomato plants to allow sunlight to reach the fruit. Pick beans and cucumbers every other day to maximize yield.	Sow a final crop of lettuce, spinach and radishes.	Harvest pumpkins and winter squash: leave some stem on to prevent rot. Snip the central growing tips on Brussel Sprouts so the uppermost sprouts develop. Sprouts taste better when frost nipped.	Cut asparagus foliage to ground level. Top dress with manure for a better crop next year.	—
Upper Midwest	—	—	Sow seeds indoors, Keep moist until germination.	Plant cool season veggies once soil is workable: (potatoes, lettuce, spinach, peas)	Plant warm season crops after the last frost.	—	Harvest baby potatoes once plants bloom. Stake tomatoes early. Apply mulch. Plant cool season crops at the end of the month.	Harvest vegetables daily to extend grow cycle.	—	—	—	—