

Planting Timeline

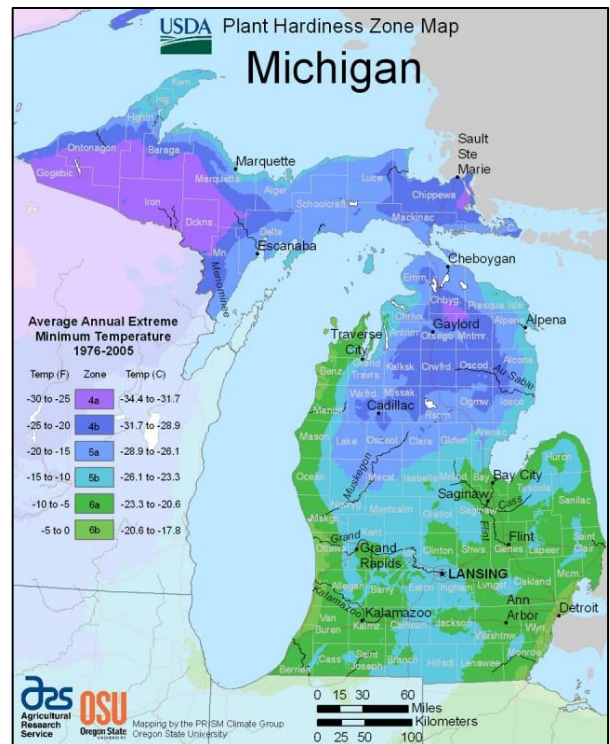
One of the hardest parts about starting a garden is simply figuring out when to plant the seeds and transplants that you want to grow that season. But it doesn't have to be!

First Steps in Developing a Timeline

- Establish a list of the plants that will be grown in the garden that season
- Find out whether the types of plants are warm or cool season crops
- Check a table for your specific geographical location's climate to find what exact time of year to plant specific fruits, veggies or flowers.

Warm or Cool Season?

- Crops differ widely in their preferred growing temperatures, so it's smart to know their needs before you plant.
- You can check the USDA Hardiness Zone Map to check average minimum temperature for your area. (Seed packets typically have information on preferred hardiness zones.)
- Set out warm-season crops after the last frost, and protect them with row covers, or protective mulching if a cold snap occurs after planting.
- You may be able make a late planting of cold-season crops in late summer or early fall to mature in fall and early winter depending on the severity of fall temperatures and first frost dates.



Michigan Timeline

- On average in mid-Michigan, our frost-free growing season is about 146 days.
- Each winter our *risk* of frost is from: October 3rd – May 10th.
- Almost *certainly*, we will receive frost from: October 14 – April 24th.
- It is *almost* guaranteed that we will not get frost from: May 25th – September 21st.
- These dates can vary according to the weather pattern that year. Living in Michigan, we can never be quite sure what the weather will bring us, but by following these guidelines for planting dates, your seeds will have the highest chance of successfully germinating without damage!



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In the Garden - What to Plant When

Cool Season Plant early in spring, as soon as ground is workable & then again, mid-summer, for fall harvest.

Beets, broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, chard, endive, garlic, kale, lettuce, mustard, onions, parsnips, peas, potatoes, radishes, rutabagas, spinach, and turnips.

Warm Season Plant after all risk of frost has passed.

Basil, corn, cucumbers, eggplant, lima beans, melons, okra, New Zealand spinach, peanuts, peppers, pumpkins, shell beans, snap beans, squash, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, and watermelons.

Legend: Cool season Warm season
S= Plant from a seed **P**= Plant from a starter plant

		April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
S	Beet Family	—	—			—	—	
S & P	Cabbage Family	—	—		—	—		
S & P	Cucumbers		-	-----	-			
P	Eggplant			-----				
S	Garlic							—
S & P	Lettuce		—	—			—	
S & P	Melons			-----				
S & P	Onions	—	—					
P	Peppers			-----				
S	Potatoes		—	—	—			
S	Spinach	—	—				—	—
S & P	Squash		-	-----	-			
P	Tomatoes			-----				

Transplants are a type of starter plant that has already been established indoors before gardeners take them to be planted in their gardens. Transplants are useful for getting a head start on warm season crops.

Transplant Options

- You can buy transplants that have already been established and acclimated to the environment from a garden center. These you can generally plant them directly into your outdoor garden and they will be at the correct growth stage to withstand the environment and grow.
- You can start seeds for transplants indoors ahead of the time that they are indicated to be planted outdoors. When growing transplants of your own, it is important to start them early enough ahead of time. Many seeds will need to have at least 4 to 6 weeks before they are to be planted into the ground. These seeds can be seeded into a variety of different types of pots, containers, and trays. They can be kept underneath artificial light systems, or simply placed in a sunny room with adequate moisture.