



GREATER LANSING  
**foodbank**  
GARDEN PROJECT

# Planting Timeline

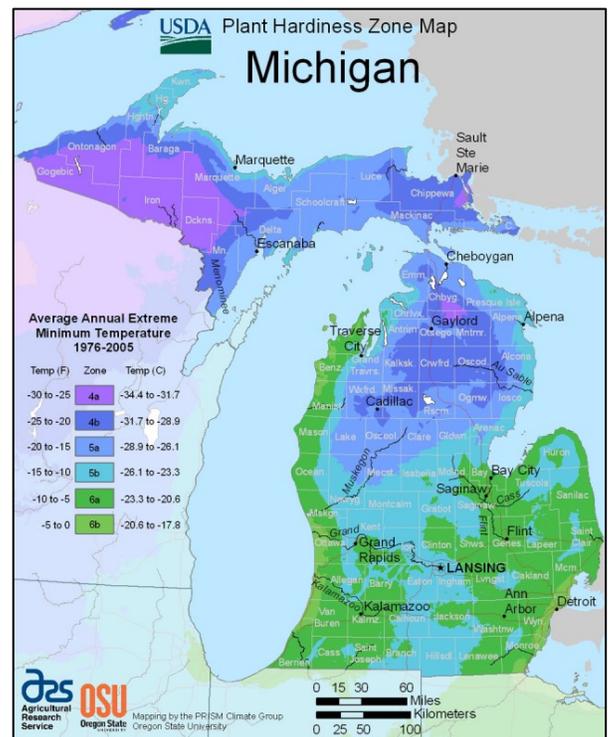
*One of the hardest parts about starting a garden is simply figuring out when to plant the seeds or transplants that you want to grow that season. But it doesn't have to be!*

## 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).
- You can establish which season (warm or cool season) a crop is by checking a chart that will tell you what season that specific crop grows for your location of your garden
- You may also be able to find some insight from seeing what is being sold fresh at markets in your area at the time
- You may be able make a late planting of cold-season crops in late summer or early fall to mature in fall and winter depending on the severity of fall temperatures
- 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.



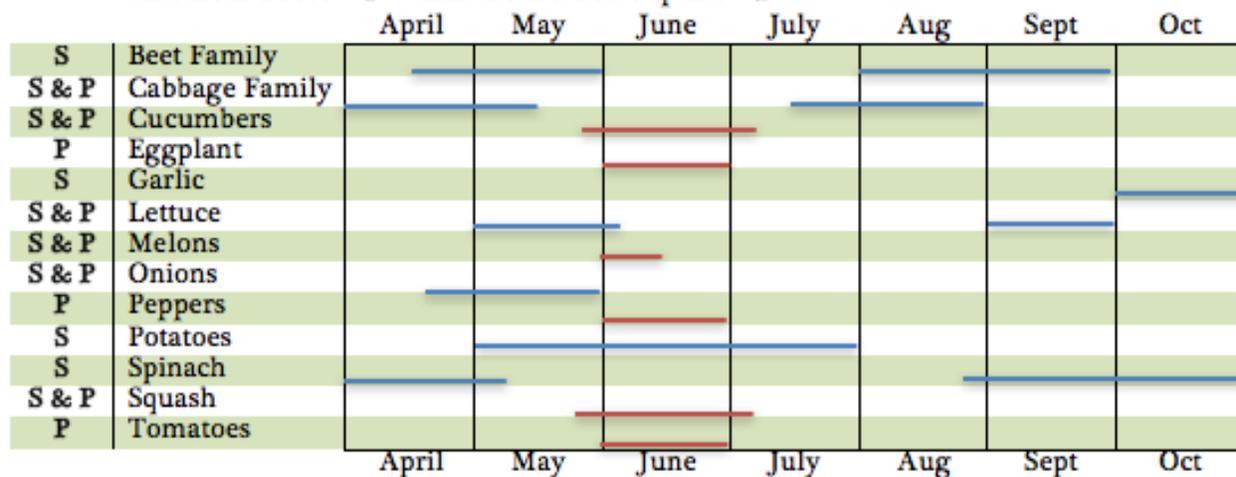
## Michigan Timeline

- On average in mid-Michigan our frost free growing season is ~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!

# Planting Timeline

## Michigan Planting Timeline for Common Garden Crops

- Cool season — Warm season —
- Plant from a seed = S Plant from a starter plant = P



*Transplants are a type of starter plant that has already been established indoors before being directly planted into the outdoor garden at the beginning of the season. Transplants are useful for getting a head start on warm season crops.*

### Transplant Options

1. You can buy transplants that have already been established and acclimated to the environment from a garden center. These you can directly plant into your outdoor garden and they will be at the correct growth stage to withstand the environment and grow.
2. You can start seeds for transplants indoors ahead of the time that they are indicated to be planted outdoors on a planting timeline (like the one shown above). When growing transplants of your own it is important to start them early enough ahead of time. Most all 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 many windows if adequate light can be captured.