

PLANTING DATES TO EXTEND THE SEASON

Traditional Memorial Day gardeners may start a few hardy veggies on May 15. Here are some other options

PLANT TYPE	START EARLY	AVERAGE PLANT DATE	PLANT LATE
Annuals, easy seeders		varies by plant	any seed that sometimes volunteers in the garden is a candidate: try dill, cilantro, sunflowers, bachelors buttons, many more; sow directly outdoors November 1-15
Beans, bush	plant as soon as soil warms to 50F. row covers protect from late frost.	direct sow May 15-31	succession plant when first plants bloom, up to July 15; cut first plants to 6" when first flush is done; plant pole beans; allow beans to dry on plant for winter soup beans
Beets; Swiss chard	plant in cool soil, down to 40F, around April 7	direct sow May 1-15	succession plant every 2-3 weeks, up to August 15
Broccoli	start indoors around March 15 or direct sow in 40F soil, around April 7	transplant May 15	look for varieties that resprout; cut heads with 6" of stem to encourage large side shoots which will continue until freeze up
Brussels sprouts	N/A	transplant May 15	start indoors March 15, transplant out April 15 - June 15 in 40F minimum soil; remove lower leaves as sprouts form; harvest in November before temps hit the teens
Cabbage	start indoors around March 15 and transplant outdoors or direct sow in 40F soil, around April 7	transplant May 15	succession plant indoors or out up to August 1-15 for fall harvest. Cut early heads leaving roots and wrapper leaves - small heads will form before frost.
Carrots	plant as soon as soil warms to 40F	direct sow May 15-31	succession plant, with radish seed, every 3-4 weeks up to July 1
Cauliflower	N/A - does not do well with spring sowing	transplant June 30	start indoors on June 1, or sow outdoors June 1-15; harvest goal is September 15 until freeze; cover in fall to protect from first freezes
Chinese Cabbage	N/A - does not do well with spring sowing	direct sow July 22	pre-cool soil for better germination; sow outdoors July 15 to August 15; harvest from October 15 to mid-20s
Corn	start indoors April 15, setting out May 1-7, before roots start to curl in the pots; direct sow into 50F soil warmed with plastic, about May 1	direct sow May 31	succession plant every 2 weeks up until July 15; or plant varieties with different maturity dates; harvest late plantings as baby corn

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Cucumbers	start indoors April 1-15, setting out when soil is 50F, about May 15. Do not allow plants to get root bound.	direct sow May 31	succession plant 3-4 weeks apart, sowing directly outdoors May 15 up to July 15
Dill	Try sowing November 1-15 for early spring germination.	direct sow May 15	succession plant every 2-3 weeks from May to July 15 for continual supply of fresh dill
Fennel, bulbing	start indoors April 1, setting out about May 1-15	transplant or direct sow May 24	cut bulb above root; roots will often sprout and form additional bulbs by frost.
Garlic	N/A-does not do well spring planted	plant outdoors October 15	straw mulch is helpful for winter protection
Grass		plant outdoors November 15	apply light staw mulch or erosion blanket for spring germination
Kale	start indoors around March 15 or direct sow in 40F soil, around April 7, for early "baby" leaves	transplant or direct sow May 1-15	allow plants not cut in spring for salads to mature for harvest once weather cools in fall; sweetest after frost
Kohlrabi	start indoors around March 15 and transplant outdoors or direct sow in 40F soil, around April 7	direct sow or transplant May 1-7	overlooked bulbs will continue to produce tasty, nutritious leaves until freeze.
Lettuce	grow indoors in containers year-round. Direct sow in cool soil down to 35F, April 1 to around May 15, succession planting every 2 weeks.	direct sow May 7-15	succession plant every 2 weeks from July 15 to August 15. Try sowing November 1-15 for early spring germination.
Melons	start indoors April 15 to May 1, setting plants out into warm soil around June 1, when plants are still young and not rootbound	direct sow May 31	direct sow seed into 50F minimum soil, up to June 30
Okra	start indoors May 1, transplanting outdoors at 1 or 2 sets of true leaves (don't stunt growth)	transplant or direct sow May 31	warm season crop only; get a jump start on germination by soaking seed 1 hour in very hot water before planting in warm soil
Onion	start indoors Jan 1 to Feb 15. Set out April 1 to May 10 in 35F minimum soil	transplant May 1	direct sow seed for scallions from April 7 through June 1
Peas	sow outdoors into 40F soil, around April 7 for best results. Planting up to May 15 may be satisfactory	direct sow April 21	pre-cool soil for better germination; for fall harvest from September 15 to freeze, plant July 1 to August 1. May be most successful with snap or snow peas
Peppers & Eggplants	start indoors March 15. For best results transplant out when soil and air are warm (50F min)	transplant June 10	fall covers may bring plants through the first light frosts.
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Perennials		varies by plant	plant November 15, with light straw mulch for spring germination; mark well
Potatoes	plant when soil reaches 40F minimum, around April 7	plant outdoors May 15	succession plant up to July 1 for mature fall potatoes. Continue up to August 1 for extended new potato harvest
Radish, fall /daikon	N/A - does not do well with spring sowing	direct sow July 24	pre-cool soil for better germination; plant July 15 to August 15 for fall harvest down to the mid 20s
Radish, spring	plant in cool soil, down to 40F, around April 7, continue every 2 weeks until June 15	direct sow May 1	plant August 1 to September 1 for harvest from September 15 to freeze.
Soybean /edamame	requires 50F soil - may manage early planting with plastic soil heaters and row covers.	direct sow May 21	succession plant every 2 weeks from around May 15 to July 1
Spinach	grow indoors in containers year-round. Direct sow in cool soil down to 40F, April 7 to around June 1, succession planting every 2 weeks.	direct sow May 1	pre-cool soil for better germination; succession plant every 2 weeks from July 15 to August 15 for plants that will overwinter. Try sowing November 1-15 for early spring germination.
Squash, Pumpkin	start indoors May 1, transplanting outdoors at 1 or 2 sets of true leaves (don't stunt growth)	direct sow or transplant May 15-31	N/A
Tomato	start seed indoors April 15, or as early as January 1 if you can provide light and transplant several times to increasingly larger containers. Plant out into warm soil as early as May 1, with protection	transplant June 1	fall covers may bring plants through the first light frosts. Try sowing seed from open-pollinated cherry tomatoes directly outdoors November 1-15, with light mulch for early spring germination.
Zucchini	start indoors May 1, transplanting outdoors at 1 or 2 sets of true leaves (don't stunt growth), about May 15-31	direct sow May 24	direct sow first seed outdoors when soil is warm (50F), and replant when first plants bloom, up to July 15



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