

Vegetable Spring Planning Guide  
for Southborough, Massachusetts

Taken from: [garden.org](http://garden.org)

On average, our frost-free growing season starts May 18 and ends Sep 18, totaling 123 days.

Cole crops like **broccoli, cauliflower, and cabbage** can be direct seeded into your garden around April 6, assuming the ground can be worked, but it's better to start them indoors around March 9 and then transplant them into the garden around April 28. Do the same with **lettuce and spinach**.

Plant **onion starts and potatoes** around March 19. Sow the seeds of **peas** (sugar snap and english) at the same time. If the ground is still frozen, then plant these as soon as the ground thaws.

Do you want to grow **tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants**? Start these indoors around March 9. Then, around May 14 you should start watching the weather forecast and, as soon as no frost is forecast, go ahead and transplant those into the ground.

Now, for all the summer vegetables like **beans, cowpeas, corn, squashes, pumpkins, cucumbers, watermelons, gourds and sunflowers**, you should plant those seeds directly into the ground around May 18, or if your soil is still very cold, once the soil is near 60° F in temperature. Having said that, we note that your location has a shorter than average growing season. Many summer vegetables need more days to mature than your area will provide. For that reason, we recommend you get a head-start by starting these summer vegetables indoors around April 28 and transplant those seedlings outside after the danger of frost is past.

Crop	Sow Seeds Indoors	Transplant Seedlings into Garden	Direct Sow Seeds
Beans	n/a	n/a	May 18-Jun 15
Beets	n/a	n/a	Mar 23-Apr 6
Carrots	n/a	n/a	Apr 6-May 4
Corn	n/a	n/a	May 18 –Jun 1
Cucumbers	n/a	n/a	May 18-Jun 1
Gourds, Squash, & Pumpkins	n/a	n/a	May 18 –Jun 1
Lettuce	Mar 9-Mar 23	Apr 6-May 4	Apr 6 – May 4
Onions	Mar 2 – Mar 9	Mar 19-Apr 18	n/a
Peas	n/a	n/a	May 19 – Apr 18

Peppers	Mar 9 – Mar 23	May 18 – Jun 1	n/a
Radishes	n/a	n/a	Apr 3 – Jun 1
Tomatoes	Mar 9 – Mar 23	May 18-Jun 1	n/a
Watermelon	n/a	n/a	May 18 – Jun 1

Vegetable Fall Planning Guide  
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**Taken from: [allthingsplants.com](http://allthingsplants.com)**

Gardening in the fall can be much more challenging than spring planting, because you are in a race to get your crops mature and harvested *before* the winter frosts begin, around September 18. This means you need to consider how much time each variety needs between planting and picking. Those numbers vary widely between different varieties of the same kinds of plants! Usually the "Days to Harvest" are present on the seed packet.

Most **tomatoes, peppers and eggplants**, for example, require around 100 days to harvest, therefore you'd want to transplant those into the ground around June 10. Anyway, it's important to remember that the numbers in this fall planting guide are only a starting point for you! Good luck and good gardening to you.

Fall is the time to plant **garlic**. Around August 4, take your cloves apart and plant the toes about 3 to 4 inches deep. This may not be accurate! Garlic dates vary wildly around the country. The way to be sure is to use a soil thermometer. When the soil temperature is 60° at a depth of 4 inches, then plant your garlic.

Cole crops like **broccoli, cauliflower, and cabbage** can be direct seeded into your garden around July 10, but because of the heat during that time of year, it's better to start them indoors around May 21 and then transplant them into the garden around June 30. Do the same with **lettuce and spinach**.

Sow **peas** directly around July 5.

Now, for all the usual hot weather veggies like **beans, cowpeas, corn, squashes, pumpkins, cucumbers, watermelons, gourds and sunflowers**, you should plant those seeds directly into the ground around June 5.

Crop	Sow Seeds Indoors	Transplant Seedlings into Garden	Direct Sow Seeds
Beans	n/a	n/a	Jun 5 – Jul 5
Beets	n/a	n/a	Jul 5 – Aug 19

Carrots	n/a	n/a	Jun 20 – Aug 19
Corn	n/a	n/a	Jun 5 – Jun 20
Cucumbers	n/a	n/a	Jun 5 – Jun 20
Gourds, Squash, & Pumpkins	n/a	n/a	May 6 – Jun 5
Lettuce	Jun 20 – Jul 20	Jun 20-Aug 19	Jul 20 – Aug 19
Onions	n/a	n/a	Aug 19 – Aug 29
Parsley	May 6 – Jun 20	Jun 20-Aug 4	n/a
Peas	n/a	n/a	Jun 20 – Jul 20
Peppers	Apr 14 – Apr 29	May 26-Jun 10	n/a
Radishes	n/a	n/a	Jul 20 – Aug 19
Tomatoes	Apr 14-Apr 29	May 26 – Jun -10	n/a
Watermelon	n/a	n/a	May 6-Jun 5

<https://garden.org/apps/calendar/?q=01772>