

SUMMER-PLANTED CROPS

Gardeners, who get going late in the growing season, need not despair! Because we have a long frost-free period and mild winters in the Puget Sound area, many crops can be planted in mid- to late summer for fall, winter or spring harvest.

By mid-season, most gardeners will have harvested some early crops. Spring radishes, turnips, spinach, peas and lettuce will be all picked or going to seed in June or July. This is the time to do a second or succession crop. (Keep your rotation plan in mind as you plan successions.)

If your goal is to get the most from your garden, you must keep the beds planted at all times. As soon as a crop is harvested, bolts (starts to flower), or stops being productive, replace it with a new crop. Pull out the remains of the old crop and add it to the compost pile. Refresh the soil with a little fertilizer and compost and you are ready to start again. Keep in mind that seeds need moisture to sprout and our summers are quite dry. Water the seedbed gently but frequently after planting.

Certain crops like beans, corn, tomatoes, peppers, squash and cucumbers actually do better if you wait until the soil really warms up. They are naturals for second plantings. Most of them need a long season to be productive, so get them in as quickly as possible. Bush beans can be planted anytime through July and will usually give a crop before the fall frosts. Some fast crops can be sown as late as August or September.

Crops such as kale are hardy through our cold winter, but many of the less hardy ones will survive with some protection. In some cases, the best varieties for over-wintered crops are different from summer varieties.

Seed packages tell you when you can first plant. Gardeners need information about when they can do a final sowing. The chart on the back of this fact sheet gives our best guess of the last planting dates where you can reasonably hope to get a good crop. Every year is different. You may occasionally find these dates were a bit optimistic. In other years, you can get away with pushing it, thanks to a long Indian summer.



Vegetable	Last Planting Dates (T = transplants)	Harvest Season
Beans	Pole – July 1; Bush – late July	fall
Beets – for roots	August 1	fall/winter
- for greens	September 1	
Broccoli – regular	mid-July; (T – mid-August)	fall
-over-wintering	June through July	following spring & summer
Brussels Sprouts	late June; (T – August 1)	fall/winter
Cabbage – summer	July 1; (T – August 1)	fall/early winter
- winter	September 1 – 15	late spring
Chinese Cabbage	mid-July through August 5	fall/winter
Carrots	mid-July	fall/winter
Cauliflower	July 1; (T – August 1)	fall
Chicory	mid-July	dig roots in fall for forcing greens
Collards	July through August	fall/winter/spring
Corn	late June	fall
Corn Salad	early September – late October	fall-spring
Cucumber	late June	summer/fall
Endive	mid-July	fall/winter
Fava Beans	November 15	May-June
Garlic	Cloves: late Oct. – Nov. 10	following summer
Kale	July; (T – mid-August)	fall/winter
Kohlrabi	mid-July	fall
Lettuce, leaf	mid-August; (T – early Sept.)	fall
Mustard	September (Oct. 1 for spring)	fall/winter/spring
Onions – green	Seed: mid-July Sets: late August	fall
- winter	July 20 – Aug. 15 only. (T – Nov. 15)	spring
Pac Choi	September 1; (T – Sept. 15)	fall
Peas	mid-July	fall
Peppers	Transplants only – late June	fall
Potatoes	June	fall
Pumpkin	June	fall
Radishes – regular	mid-September	fall
- white	July	winter
Rutabaga	mid-July	fall/winter
Spinach – regular	July through mid-August	fall
- winter	September	fall/spring
Squash – summer	late June	summer/fall
- winter		fall
Swiss Chard	September	spring
Tomatoes	Transplants only – late June	fall
Turnips – for greens	September	fall
- for roots	mid-August	fall/winter

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