



HOW TO KNOW WHEN MY CROP IS READY TO HARVEST

You have cared for your plants for many weeks and waited for the right time to harvest, but how do you know when your crops are ready?

Check your seed package:

If you started your plants from seeds, the back of the seed package will give you an estimated day to harvest after you planted your seed. It might also let describe the size, color, and shape that of the vegetable or fruit when ready to harvest.

Give them a try:

To develop the best flavor, crops should grow to until they reach full maturity, but that does not mean bigger is better. Zucchini, for example, can grow very large, but the skin and flesh become more inedible on larger vegetables. If you are new to gardening, have fun and try one or two at different stages and sizes to see what you prefer.

Here are some guidelines that will help you decide if your crop is ready to harvest.

Vegetable Harvest Guide				
Vegetable	Days to Harvest	Size	Color	Comment
Carrot	60-80	$\frac{3}{4}$ inch diameter	Orange (or other specified color)	Harvest when the colored shoulder pushes through the soil
Cucumber: (Pickling)	55-65	2-4 inches long	Dark green	Harvest every 2-3 days, leave small piece of stem attached to fruit.
Cucumber: (Slicing)	55-65	6-8 inches long	Dark Green	1-2 in. diameter, harvest plants every 2-3 days.
Lettuce (leaf)	45-60	4-6 inches long	Green	Harvest small outer leaves, hot weather causes bitterness.
Onion	100-120 (from seeds) 90-100 (from sets)	Varies with cultivar	White, yellow, and red.	Harvest when tops fall over and begin to dry.
Peas (Sugar)	55-85	3 inch long pods	Bright green	Harvest when pods are long and thin, just as the seeds begin to develop.
Peas (Snap)	55-85	3 inches long pods	Bright Green	Pick when seeds are nearly full size.
Pepper (hot)	60-90	Depends on variety	Depends on variety, often green, orange, or red	Harvest when color has fully developed and firm
Pepper (sweet)	70-90	2-4 inches in diameter	Green, red, yellow, purple, orange	Usually harvested when green, but can be left on until, red, orange, yellow or purple (depends on variety.)
Radish	25-40	$\frac{1}{2}$ - 2 inches in diameter	Depends of variety	2-3 inches in diameter.
Summer squash (zucchini)	50-60	6-12 inches long	Green or yellow (depends on variety)	Harvest every 2-3 days when fruit are 2 inches in diameter.
Tomato	70-90 days from transplants.	Varies with cultivar	Red, orange, yellow, green (depends on variety)	Harvest fully ripe when full color appears and before too soft or split.





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For more information see:

Home Vegetable Gardening in Washington

<http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/EM057E/EM057E.pdf>

Growing Cucumbers in Home Gardens

<http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/FS096E/FS096E.pdf>

Growing Peas in Home Gardens

<http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/FS116E/FS116E.pdf>

Growing Peppers in Home Gardens

<http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/FS220E/FS220E.pdf>

Growing Tomatoes in Home Gardens

<http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/FS145E/FS145E.pdf>

Growing Radishes in Home Gardens

<http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/FS127E/FS127E.pdf>

Growing Radishes in Home Gardens

<http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/FS087E/FS087E.pdf>



Photo by Alice Allison

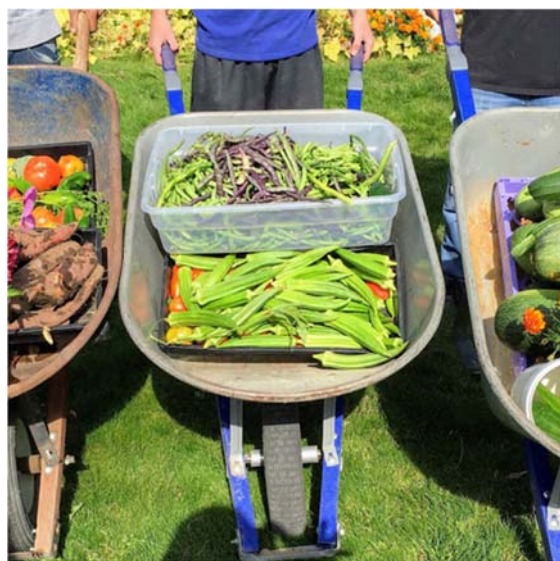


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