

Vegetable Planting and Transplanting Guide

Vegetable	Weeks grown indoors prior to transplanting	Days to germination*	Seed planting depth (inches)	Temperature range for optimal germination (°F)	Optimal plant growing temperatures (°F)**	Outdoor plant spacing (inches)	Days to fruit/vegetable maturity	Cool-Season (C) or Warm-Season (W) Crop	Suited for plastic mulch and drip irrigation	When to spring plant outdoors	Harvesting characteristics	Vegetable
Cabbage	5 to 6	10 - 12	½	70 – 80	60 – 70 day night 50 – 60	12 – 18	60 – 110	C	No	4 weeks before last frost***~	When heads are solid but not yet cracking.	Cabbage
Cauliflower	5 to 6	10 - 21	¼ to ½	70 – 80	60 – 70 55 – 60	18	50 – 72	C	No	4 weeks before last frost~	When head is compact but before curd opens and becomes 'ricey'.	Cauliflower
Broccoli	5 to 6	10 - 14	¼ to ½	70 – 80	60 – 70 50 – 60	18 – 24	70 – 95	C	No	4 weeks before last frost~	While buds are tight and head is compact.	Broccoli
Brussels Sprouts	5 to 6	7 - 14	¼ to ½	70 – 80	60 – 70 50 – 60	18 – 24	90 – 120	C	No	5 weeks after last frost	When plump, firm and glossy.	Brussels Sprouts
Head Lettuce	5 to 7	7 - 10	1/8	60 – 75	60 – 70 60 – 70	12	40 – 90	C	No	1-2 weeks before last frost~	When heads are firm and glossy.	Head Lettuce
Onions	9 to 11	10 - 15	3/8	65 – 80	60 – 70 45 – 55	12	60 – 115	C	Yes	4 weeks before last frost	Green or bunching onion – when desired; bulb onion – when above-ground leaves fall, allow to cure 1 – 2 days, thinnings can be used anytime.	Onions
Celery	10 to 12	21	1/8	60 – 70	65 – 75 55 – 65	9 – 12	110 – 120	C/W	Yes	After last frost	When outer petioles can be pulled anytime for immediate use, fully mature when about 3 inches by 21 inches.	Celery
Tomatoes	5 to 7	7 - 10	¼ to ½	70 – 80	70 – 80 60 – 65	18 – 24	52 – 90	W	Yes	After last frost	When evenly colored and firm.	Tomatoes
Peppers	6 to 8	10 - 12	¼ to ½	75 – 85	70 – 80 60 – 70	18 – 24	55 – 80	W	Yes	After last frost	When glossy in color and firm, either 'green' mature or final color maturity for the type and maturity.	Peppers
Eggplant	7 to 9	10 - 12	¼ to ½	75 – 90	70 – 80 65 – 70	24	50 – 75	W	Yes	When night temperatures above 50° F	When glossy in color and of satisfactory size for the cultivar and before seeds mature and darken.	Eggplant
Cucumber	3 to 4	7 - 8	¾ to 1	75 – 95	70 – 90 60 – 70	12	48 – 70	W	Yes	1 week after last frost	When 3 – 4 inches long for pickling, 6 – 10 inches for slicing and fully green, yellow fruit should be discarded.	Cucumber
Muskmelon	3 to 4	7	¾ to 1	75 – 95	70 – 90 60 – 70	12	68 – 95	W	Yes	1 week after last frost	When melon begins to detach from	Muskmelon

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												stem.	
Watermelon	3 to 4	6 - 8	¾ to 1	75 - 95	70 - 90 70	60 -	24	68 - 95	W	Yes	1 week after last frost	When tendril nearest stem attachment turns brown and shrivels.	Watermelon
Summer Squash	3 to 4	7 - 10	¾ to 1	75 - 95	70 - 90 70	60 -	18	42 - 65	W	Yes	1 week after last frost	Zucchini, yellow and other elongate types when 5 to 8 inches long and skin is tender, skin must be very tender on patty pan and round types and be 2 to 4 inches in diameter.	Summer Squash

*Depends on temperature.

** Reduce day temperatures by 5 to 10 degrees F when the weather is cloudy.

*** In Pennsylvania the last frost is typically between May 1 and 25.

-Direct seed about the same time you transplant for fall harvests.

Sources

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Prepared by Elsa Sánchez, assistant professor of horticulture systems management and

Pete Ferretti, professor of vegetable crops

Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences

Department of Horticulture

102 Tyson Bldg.

University Park, PA 16802

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