

Planting and harvesting times for garden vegetables

This guide will help you schedule the planting of gardens so space may be used efficiently. Designed for central Iowa, dates for southern Iowa would be about 1 week earlier, for northern Iowa about 1 week later. For more information on planting a vegetable garden, see PM 819, *Planting a Home Vegetable Garden*.

Radishes—Several plantings, 7 to 10 days apart, are possible. Radishes pass peak quality quickly, so several plantings are needed to provide high quality radishes throughout the spring and early summer. Radishes become spongy and make seed heads readily with the onset of hot weather. Several fall plantings can be made in August and September.

Lettuce—Sow seeds in early spring. Lettuce flowers and turns bitter with the onset of hot weather. Fall plantings can be made in August.

Onions—Sow seeds as soon as the ground can be worked in spring for mature (storage) onions. Plant sets and transplants in spring.

Peas—Sow seeds in early spring as soon as the soil can be worked. Plants stop bearing when hot weather arrives. A fall planting may be made about August 1 to 10.

Spinach—Sow seeds in early to mid-April. Leaves develop bitter flavor and plants make seed heads with the onset of hot weather. A fall crop may be planted about August 10.

Cabbages—Set out transplants any time from early April to mid-June. Early-maturing types may be planted in early August for fall crop.

Broccoli and cauliflower—Set out transplants in early to mid-April. Both are sensitive to hot weather so need to be encouraged to head as early as possible.

Collards and kale—Seed at the same time as lettuce and other early spring crops. Direct-seed in early July for a fall crop.

Carrots—Seed early or any time during spring and summer. Carrots seeded as late as August 1 may produce full sized roots by fall.

Beets and Swiss chard—Plant any time from spring to midsummer. Last practical planting date for fall crop is August 1.

Potatoes—Best planted in early to mid-April; a long growing season is needed to produce full-sized tubers.

Turnips—Sow seeds in April and again in August or early September for a fall crop.

Snap beans—Plant any time after May 5. Most varieties will keep producing if they are kept picked. Last practical date for planting is August 1.

Lima beans—Plant from May 20 to June 30 to produce a crop by average frost date.

Sweet corn—Plant when soil temperature reaches 60°F or any time thereafter. Last practical date for planting an early variety is July 1.

Tomatoes—Plant seedlings in mid-May. Last practical date for planting tomatoes is June 20.

Peppers and eggplants—Plant seedlings in mid-May. Last practical date for planting peppers and eggplants is June 20.

Summer squashes—Seed mid-May. If harvested every other day, plants will keep producing until frost. Last practical date for seeding is July 20.

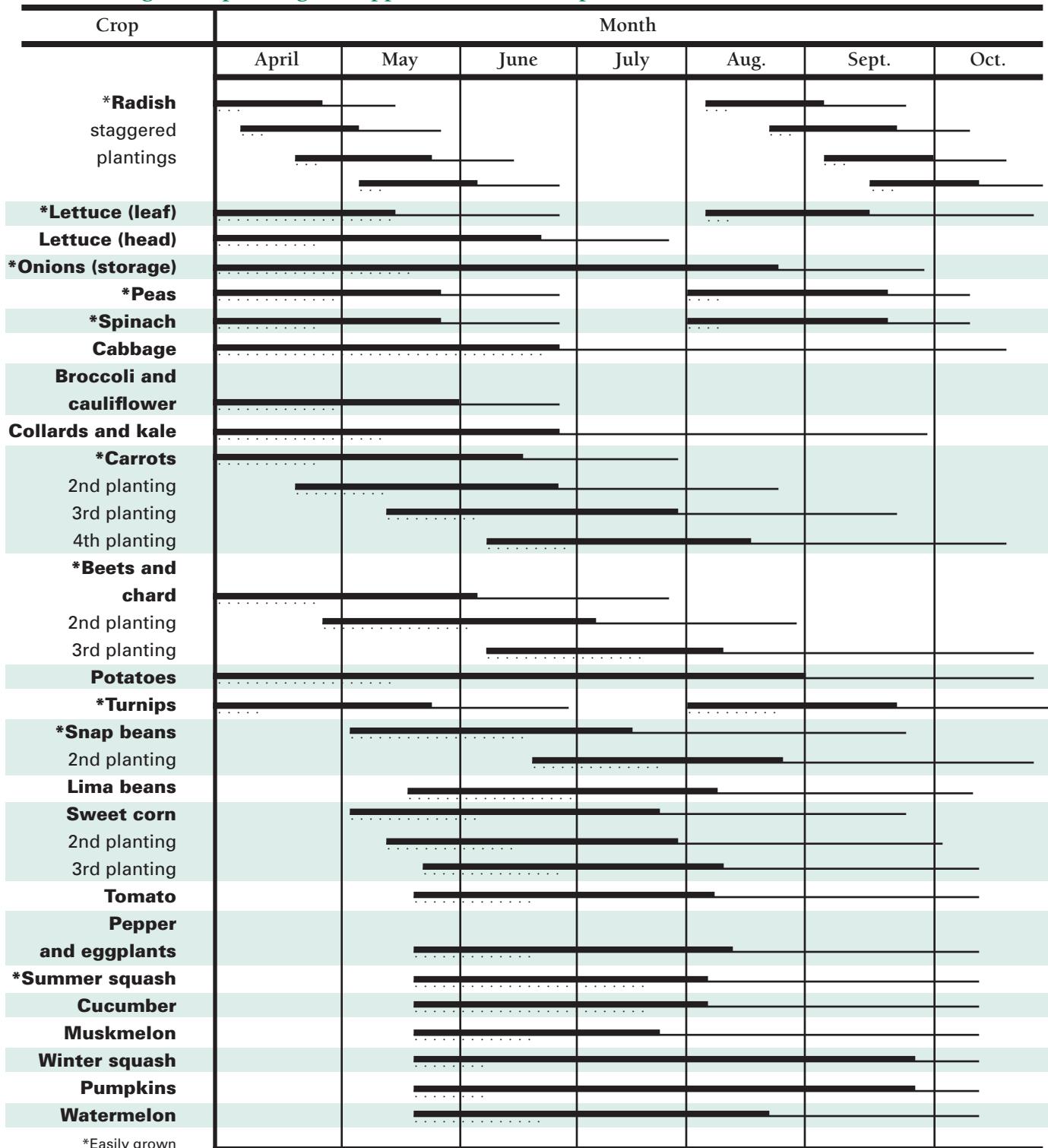
Cucumbers—Seed mid-May. Production is continuous if kept picked. Last practical date for seeding is July 20.

Muskmelons—Seed mid-May. There are varietal differences in the length of time from planting to harvest. Last practical date to sow seeds of early maturing varieties is June 20.

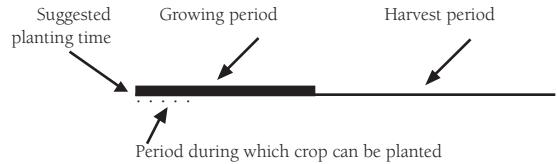
Winter squashes and pumpkins—Seed mid-May. A full season is needed to produce mature fruit that will keep well into the winter.

Watermelons—Seed mid-May. There are varietal differences in the length of time from planting to harvest. Last practical date to sow seeds of an early maturing variety is June 20.

Guide to vegetable planting and approximate harvest period



*Easily grown



Planting times and approximate dates to harvest for central Iowa. Dates for southern Iowa about 1 week earlier; northern Iowa about 1 week later. Factors that cause variation in planting and harvesting times: lateness of spring, maturity of vegetables, onset of hot weather, fall frost date, average temperatures, wetness, dryness, etc.

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