

Recommended Planting Dates in Arlington/Alexandria
Chesapeake Rolling Coastal Plain
Arlington County/City of Alexandria

Avg last killing frost 4/1-4/10
Avg first killing frost 11/1-11/10
Avg # frost free days 200

2012 USDA Hardiness Zone: 7b 5f-10f

Month	March				April			May			June			July			August			September			October		
Date	1	11	21	31	10	20	30	10	20	30	9	19	29	9	19	29	8	18	28	7	17	27	7	17	27
Crop																									
Collards	P								H								P							H	→
Onion, set	P				P&H					H															→
Peas, garden	P						H																		
Radish	P		P&H				H										P		P&H						→
Spinach	P				H															P				H	→
Turnips	P				H												P				P&H		H		→
Potatoes		P									H														
Beets			P						H									P						H	→
Cabbage*			P						H							P						H			→
Carrots			P						H				P&H				P			H					→
Lettuce, bibb			P							H						P					H				→
Lettuce, leaf			P					H								P				H					→
Broccoli*				P							H					P&H	P						H		→
Brussels sprouts*				P								H				P							H		→
Cauliflower*				P					H							P					H				→
Beans, bush						P					P&H						H								
Beans, pole						P								P&H			H								
Corn, sweet						P							P&H				H								
Cucumbers							P					P&H								H					
Eggplant*							P								H										
Muskmelons							P								H										
Cantaloupe							P								H										
Peppers*							P							P&H	H										
Pumpkins							P									H									
Squash, summer							P				P&H								H						
Squash, winter							P									H									
Sweet Potato							P									H									
Tomatoes*							P						P&H		H										
Watermelon							P								H										
Key																									
Plant																									
Plant & Harvest																									
Harvest																									
* Transplants - See notes on reverse						Start																			

On the web:

<http://www.pwcgov.org/default.aspx?topic=04008300331>

Annual Vegetable Gardening Calendar VCE Prince William

Horticulture Help Line

703 792-7747

Activity	Month ->	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Order seed catalogues / decide what to grow														
Map the garden: crops, companions, succession, rotation														
Build a planning calendar (See Reverse)														
Check viability and test germination of seeds on hand														
Order / buy seeds														
Till or pull cover crops 2 weeks before planting next crop					x	x	x							
Start hardy vegetables indoors														
Transplant into the garden														
Start tender summer annuals indoors														
Plant (direct sow or transplant) tender summer annuals														
Plant summer catch crop (e.g. buckwheat) as needed														
Plant (direct sow or transplant) fall vegetables														
Plant winter cover crops (e.g., rye, wheat, hairy vetch, fava beans, Austrian winter peas)														
Extend seasons: floating row covers, cold frames, cloches														
Save seeds from open-pollinated annuals at harvest														
Plant garlic for harvest the following June														
Harvest all tender annuals before first frost														
Compost, incorporate, till or remove residue														
Remove and discard any diseased material														
Mulch (8") overwintering vegetables (e.g., carrot, parsnip)														
All beds should be planted, composted or mulched														
Cleanup, maintain and store garden tools and equipment														
Rest, write your wish list for garden gifts														

Notes on starting plants indoors

See individual instructions with seeds

Cabbage, Cauliflower, Brussels Sprouts, Broccoli

Start in flats 4 to 6 weeks before planting out

Tomato, Eggplant, Pepper

Start in flats 6 to 8 weeks before planting out and transplant into deeper flats (6 in) or pots midway

Many other plants can be started in flats to save space in the garden, such as corn, wheat, melon, herbs, etc.

Recommended Sustainable Gardening Practices

- Periodically test and amend the soil with minerals, nutrients
- Build & maintain soil organic matter with compost and cover crops.
200 lbs/100sq ft for development -- 50 -100 lbs/sq ft to maintain
- Use French intensive method – deeply dig with hand tools (24 in)
- Rotate crops; companion plant; interplant; “right plant, right place”
- Irrigate as needed to maintain moisture
- Keep the garden covered: succession, mulches, cover crops
- Till and aerate properly; use permanent paths; avoid compression