



NORTH CAROLINA PIEDMONT & FOOTHILLS Direct Seeding & Planting Calendar

USDA ZONE 7b–8a • Iredell • Catawba • Mecklenburg • Gaston • Alexander • Lincoln Counties

Average Last Spring Frost: April 10–20

Average First Fall Frost: October 25–November 5



JANUARY ❄️	FEBRUARY ❄️	MARCH 🌱	APRIL 🌸	MAY ☀️	JUNE ☀️	JULY ☀️	AUGUST ☀️	SEPTEMBER 🌱	OCTOBER 🍁	NOVEMBER 🌿	DECEMBER ❄️
DIRECT SEED • Spinach (cold frame) • Fava beans (mild winters) • English peas (late month in mild years) PLANT • Bare-root fruit trees • Blueberries • Grapes • Asparagus crowns TASKS • Order seed • Soil testing • Prune fruit trees • Sharpen tools • Add compost	DIRECT SEED • English peas • Spinach • Lettuce • Radishes • Carrots • Beets • Turnips • Kale • Mustard • Collards PLANT • Seed potatoes • Onion sets • Shallots TASKS • Install row covers • Succession plant every 2–3 weeks	DIRECT SEED • Peas • Lettuce • Spinach • Arugula • Carrots • Beets • Turnips • Radishes • Swiss chard • Kale • Potatoes PLANT • Asparagus • Strawberries • Rhubarb TASKS • Harden off seedlings • Watch late frosts	DIRECT SEED (after last frost) • Bush beans • Pole beans • Sweet corn • Cucumbers • Summer squash • Pumpkins • Sunflowers • Sunflowers TRANSPLANT • Tomatoes • Peppers • Eggplant • Basil TASKS • Mulch heavily • Install supports	DIRECT SEED • Beans • Corn • Cucumbers • Melons • Watermelon • Okra • Southern peas • Winter squash PLANT • Sweet potato slips TASKS • Succession plant beans & squash every 2–3 weeks • Watch squash vine borers	DIRECT SEED • Beans • Corn • Okra • Southern peas • Cucumbers • Squash PLANT • Sweet potato slips (last good month) TASKS • Mulch 3–4 inches deep • Water deeply • Watch for heat stress	DIRECT SEED • Bush beans • Lima beans • Southern peas • Okra • Cucumbers • Winter squash • Pumpkins (early month) START FOR FALL • Kale • Collards TASKS • Shade young seedlings • Water mornings • Watch for blossom-end rot	DIRECT SEED • Bush beans • Turnips • Beets • Carrots • Kale • Mustard • Swiss chard • Radishes • Collards START IN TRAYS • Broccoli • Cabbage • Cauliflower • Brussels sprouts TASKS • Prime fall planting window • Keep seedbeds moist	DIRECT SEED • Lettuce • Spinach • Arugula • Kale • Collards • Mustard • Radishes • Turnips • Carrots • Beets COVER CROPS • Crimson Clover • Winter Rye • Austrian Winter Peas TASKS • Install frost protection • Clean up diseased plants	NOVEMBER 🌿 • Garlic • Spinach • Cover crops PLANT • Fruit trees • Blueberries • Grapes TASKS • Mulch perennial beds • Protect young trees	DECEMBER ❄️ DIRECT SEED • Spinach (protected) • Fava beans (mild winters) TASKS • Plan next season • Clean tools • Build beds • Add compost & leaves	

SOIL TEMPERATURE GUIDE	
SOIL TEMP	BEST CROPS
40°F	Spinach, peas, onions
45°F	Lettuce, radish, carrots
50°F	Beets, kale, potatoes
60°F	Corn begins, beans soon
65°F	Cucumbers, squash
70°F+	Tomatoes, peppers, okra, melons, sweet potatoes

Soil temperature is often more important than air temperature.

SUCCESSION PLANTING SCHEDULE	
CROP	REPLANT EVERY
Lettuce	2 weeks
Radishes	2 weeks
Bush Beans	3 weeks
Carrots	3 weeks
Beets	3 weeks
Spinach	3 weeks
Sweet Corn	2 weeks

BENEFICIAL FLOWERS TO DIRECT SEED	
SPRING (Early)	AFTER LAST FROST
Calendula	Zinnias
Bachelor Buttons	Cosmos
Larkspur	Sunflowers
	Marigolds
	Nasturtiums

PLANTING TIMELINE OVERVIEW											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Cool Season Greens (Spinach, Lettuce, Kale, Chard, Mustard)	D								D	H	H
Roots (Carrot, Beet, Turnip, Radish)		D							H		H
Beans (Bush, Pole, Lima)					D		D				H
Corn				D	H		D	H			
Squash / Cucumbers				D					H		
Winter Squash & Pumpkins							D				H

YEAR-ROUND GARDENING TIPS			
WATERING Water deeply (1–1½ in./week). Morning watering is best. Keep seedbeds consistently moist until germination.	MULCH 3–4 inches of leaves, straw, or wood chips. Helps reduce watering by up to 50%.	CLAY SOIL Never work wet clay. Add compost every season. Raised beds warm earlier in spring.	ROW COVERS Extend spring and fall seasons. Protect from cabbage worms. Exclude cucumber beetles and squash vine borers.
COMPANION PLANTING Tomatoes: basil, onions, marigolds Beans: corn, cucumbers Carrots: onions, lettuce Cabbage family: dill, thyme Avoid: onions with beans; potatoes with tomatoes.	LUNAR GARDENING (OPTIONAL) Waxing Moon: Sow crops grown for leaves and fruit (lettuce, beans, corn, tomatoes). Waning Moon: Sow root crops (carrots, beets, potatoes, onions) and perform pruning or transplanting.		