



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

UNIVERSITY of CALIFORNIA – COUNTY of SAN DIEGO



4-H YOUTH & FAMILY – AGRICULTURE – HORTICULTURE – NATURAL RESOURCES – NUTRITION & CONSUMER SCIENCE

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VEGETABLE GARDEN PLANTING GUIDE FOR SAN DIEGO COUNTY

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This planting guide refers to the coastal and inland regions of San Diego County. Planting periods for some common cool and warm season vegetables are given for a year having average weather conditions. The beginning and end of a planting period can vary by several weeks from year to year. Gardeners need to exercise more judgment when planting early or late in the season. Suitable planting dates are dictated to a large extent by the amount of time a vegetable takes to grow from seed to a harvestable size and by the vegetable's climatic requirements. Seed packets and catalogs give the number of days required from seed to harvest under optimum growing conditions. The cold tolerance of some vegetables is listed below as a guide for early planting.

Hardy Vegetables: These vegetables are not injured by light frosts and the seed will germinate at a rather low temperature. This group includes: onion sets, cabbage plants, (which have been well hardened), kale, kohlrabi, brussel sprouts, spinach, turnip, radish, asparagus, and rhubarb.

Half-Hardy Vegetables: The seeds of this group will germinate at rather low temperatures, but the young plants are injured by frost. This group includes: lettuce, beet, carrot, chard, parsley, parsnip, heading broccoli, early potatoes, onion seeds, garden peas, celery plants, and cauliflower plants.

Tender Vegetables: These vegetables are injured by the lightest frost and do not thrive at a low temperature even though frost does not occur. These should not be planted until all danger of frost is past. This group includes: snap bean, tomato, sweet corn, and sweet potato.

Very Tender Vegetable: These vegetables do not thrive until the soil has become warm. The seed will rot in the ground unless the soil is warm. This group includes: eggplant, pepper, cucumber, watermelon, muskmelon, lima bean, squash, and pumpkin.

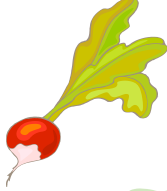
To prepare the garden for planting, rototill or spade the soil to a depth of 8 to 12 inches, then break up clods and rake the surface smooth. Organic compost and manures can best be incorporated into the soil at this time. A fertilizer containing nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium should be mixed into the soil prior to planting. If animal manures are used they should be spread evenly over the soil to a depth of one-quarter to one-half inch deep and thoroughly mixed into the top six inches of soil. Manures are best applied four to six weeks prior to planting to prevent injury. Commercial fertilizers can be used alone or in combination with manures and compost to provide adequate soil fertility. Mix commercial fertilizer into the top six inches of soil just before planting at the rate recommended on the product label. Additional applications of a fertilizer containing nitrogen are usually made periodically during the growing season to sustain vigorous plant growth.

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Most vegetables fall into two groups:

COOL SEASON CROPS

Food value is generally higher per pound and per acre than in warm season crops.



We eat a vegetative part of the plant:

- Root – carrot, parsnip, beet, radish, turnip
- Stem – Kohlrabi, white potato
- Leaf – spinach, lettuce, celery, asparagus, cabbage, onion
- Immature flower parts – cauliflower, sprouting broccoli, globe artichoke

Planting and harvesting time should be in the cool season.

Root depth is shallow to medium.

Storage temperature should be 32° F, except white potatoes (40° to 50° F)

WARM SEASON CROPS

Food value is generally lower per pound and per acre than in cool season crops.



We eat the fruit of the plant:

- Mature fruit – tomato, watermelon, cantaloupe, winter squash
- Immature fruit – summer squash, cucumber, snap and lima beans, sweet corn

Planting and harvesting time should be in the warm season.

Root depth is medium to deep.

Storage generally not advisable for very long periods.

(Note: Two exceptions to the above classifications are peas (a fruit, yet a cool season crop) and sweet potatoes (a root and warm season crop).



RECOMMENDED PLANTING DATES



Coastal Region (1&2) Warm Season

Beans, Snap & Pole	Mid Mar - Aug
Beans, Lima	Mid Apr - Jul
Cantaloupe	Apr - Jun
Corn, Sweet	Mid Mar - Jul
Cucumbers	Mid Mar - Jul
Eggplant (plants)	Apr - Jun
Melons (Casaba, etc)	Apr - Jun
Okra	Apr - Jun
Pepper (plants)	Apr - Jun
Squash, summer	Mid Mar - Aug
Squash, winter	Apr - Jun
Sweet Potato (plants)	Apr - Jun
Tomato (plants)	Mar - Jul
Watermelons	Apr - Jun

Inland Region (3&4) Warm Season

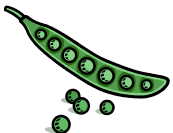
Beans, Snap & Pole	Apr - Mid Aug
Beans, Lima	Mid Apr - Jul
Cantaloupe	Apr - Jun
Corn, Sweet	Apr - Jul
Cucumbers	Apr - Jun
Eggplant (plants)	Apr - Jun
Melons (Casaba, etc)	Apr - Jun
Okra	Apr - Jun
Pepper (plants)	Apr - Jun
Squash, summer	Apr - Jun
Squash, winter	Apr - Jun
Sweet Potato (plants)	May - Jun
Tomato (plants)	Apr - Jun
Watermelons	Apr - Jun

Cool Season

Beets	Sept - May
Broccoli (plants)	Sept - Feb
Broccoli (seeds)	Aug - Dec
Cabbage (plants)	Sept - Feb
Cabbage (seeds)	Aug - Dec
Carrots	Sept - Apr
Cauliflower (plants)	Sept - Feb
Cauliflower (seeds)	Aug - Dec
Chard	Sept - Jun
Endive	Sept - May
Kale	Sept - Apr
Kohlrabi	Sept - Mar
Head Lettuce	Sept - Mar
Leaf Lettuce	Sept - Apr
Onion (bulb)	
Short Day	Oct - Dec
Medium Day	Jan - Feb
Onion (green)	Sept - May
Peas (bush)	Sept - Mar
Potatoes (Irish)	Feb - Mar
	Mid Aug - Sept
Radish	Sept - May
Spinach	Sept - Apr
Turnips	Sept - May

Cool Season

Beets	Sept - Mid Apr
Broccoli (plants)	Sept - Feb
Broccoli (seeds)	Aug - Oct
Cabbage (plants)	Sept - Feb
Cabbage (seeds)	Aug - Oct
Carrots	Sept - Mar
Cauliflower (plants)	Sept - Feb
Cauliflower (seeds)	Aug - Oct
Chard	Sept - Apr
Endive	Sept - Apr
Kale	Sept - Apr
Kohlrabi	Sept - Mar
Head Lettuce	Sept - Feb
Leaf Lettuce	Sept - Mar
Onion (bulb)	
Short Day	Mid Oct - Dec
Medium Day	Jan - Feb
Onions (green)	Sept - Apr
Peas (bush)	Jan - Mar
Potatoes (Irish)	Mid Feb - Apr
	Mid Aug - Sept
Radish	Sept - Mar
Spinach	Sept - Mar
Turnips	Mid Sept - Apr



SAN DIEGO COUNTY COASTAL AND INLAND BIOCLIMATE REGION



Coastal Region Subdivisions

- 1 – Maritime Zone/Inland Zones
- 2 – Hill & Mesa District
- 3 – Valley & Canyon District
- 4 – High Elevation Zone

Approximate Area = Sea Level to 2000' Elevation Contour

Bioclimates are complexities of weather that differ from each other in some characteristic of importance to plants and animals.

Subdivisions of California's bioclimates are named for the geographic areas with which they are most closely associated. These names are used to designate the agricultural areas of the state.