



# Low Desert Planting and Harvesting Calendar

KEY:

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*Ask us about our gardening and design consulting services. We can help you create your dream landscape, with organic vegetable gardens, medicinal plants, fruit trees, composting bins, revitalized water features, graywater systems, rainwater catchment, supercharged soils, and permaculture principles.*

	= Main Harvest Time
	= Potential Extended Harvest
<b>X</b>	= Ideal Seed Planting Time
<b>x</b>	= Good Seed Planting Time
*	= Can Be Planted, with Protection
<b>t</b>	= Set Out Transplants
<b>i</b>	= Plant Seed Indoors/Greenhouse

Crop	Hardiness temp. °F	J	J	F	F	M	M	A	A	M	M	J	J	J	J	A	A	S	S	O	O	N	N	D	D	Comments
		AN	AN	EB	EB	AR	AR	PR	PR	AY	AY	UN	UN	UL	UL	UG	UG	EP	EP	CT	CT	OV	OV	EC	EC	
Artichoke--Globe	20	*t	*t	t	t													x	x	X	x	x	*t	*t	*t	Unpicked heads become huge flowers.
--Jerusalem	<0					x	x	x																		Can be invasive.
Arugula	15																*	*	x	X	X					May be planted thickly.
Asian Greens	25																*	x	X	X	X	X				Bolt quickly in Spring. Flowers are tasty.
Asparagus	<0					X	X	x	x	*									t	t	t	t				Don't harvest until 3 <sup>rd</sup> year.
Basil	32	i	i	i	i	xt	xt	xt																i	i	Loves heat. Not drought-tolerant.
Bean--Blackeye	32					x	x	X	X	X	X															Performs well in full summer heat.
--Fava	20																	*	X	X	X	x				Dislikes heat.
--Garbanzo	25	*																*	X	X	x	x	*	*		Stays low to ground.
--Green snap	32				*	X	X	*							x	X	*									Seed will rot if planted in cold soil.
--Lentil	25	*																*	X	X	x	x	*	*		Harvest entire plant and thresh when dry.
--Lima	32				*	x	X	x	*									x								Best on a trellis.
--Pinto	32				*	X	X	*	*						x	*										Harvest entire plant and thresh when dry.
--Soy	32				*	X	X	*	*					x	x	*										Use special varieties for edamame.
--Yardlong	32					x	x	X	X	X	X															Black-seeded types are best. Use trellis.
Beet	26																*	x	X	X	X	x	x			Be sure to thin if you want big beets.
Broccoli--head	25																x	X	X	xt	xt	*t	*t	t	Light frost improves flavor.	
--Raab	25																*	x	X	X	X	x				Pick frequently to maintain production.
Brussels Sprout	22															*	X	X	x	*t	t	t				Only early hybrids do well. 'Oliver' is best.
Cabbage--Chinese	24																*	x	X	X	Xt	xt	xt			Heads form quickly. Be sure to thin.
--standard	26																*	X	X	X	Xt	xt	xt	*t	t	Red varieties take a little longer to head.
Carrot	25																*	x	X	X	x	x	x			Slow to sprout--add a few radish seeds.
Cauliflower	27																*	X	X	xt	xt	*t	*t			Fold leaves over exposed heads.
Celery	28															*	x	x	x	*t	t	t				Loves water and high humidity.
Cilantro	28																	*	x	X	X	x	x			Flowers attract beneficial insects.
Collards	25																	*	x	X	X	x	x			Light frost improves flavor.
Corn--flour	32				*	X	X	x	*			*														Allow to totally dry on stalk.
--sweet	32				*	X	X	x	*					x	X	X	*									Supersweet varieties require warm soil.

**Hardiness Note:** Hardiness temperature, in degrees Fahrenheit, is the point at which damage occurs in exposed plants. Extent of damage depends on length of exposure, as well as micro-environmental factors. Covering plants with frost cloth can give anywhere from 2 to 10 degrees of extra protection. Coverings are most effective when suspended close to, but not in contact with, the plant.

Crop	Hardness temp. of	JAN	JAN	FEB	FEB	MAR	MAR	APR	APR	MAY	MAY	JUN	JUN	JUL	JUL	AUG	AUG	SEP	SEP	OCT	OCT	NOV	NOV	DEC	DEC	Comments
		1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	
Cucumber--	32				*	X	X	x	x	x	x															More heat-tolerant than standard types.
--standard	32			i	*	X	x	x							*	X	x									Harvest frequently for best quality.
Dill	27																		*	x	X	x				Very easy from seed. Poor transplanter.
Eggplant	32	i	i	i	i	xt	xt	xt	x	x	x													i	i	Best production in Fall.
Endive	25														*	*	x	X	X	x	x	*				Pull leaves over center to blanch.
Fennel--bulbing	27															*	*	x	X	X	x	x				Can be harvested at any size.
--herb	25															*	x	X	X	x	x					Flowers attract beneficial insects.
Garlic	10																*	x	X	X	X	x	*	*		Dig bulbs when tops die back.
Jicama	32				*	x	X	X	x	x	x	x	x	*												Does well with trellis.
Kale	22														*	x	X	X	X	X						Pick outer leaves for continuous harvest.
Leek	15	x	x													*	X	X	X	x	x	x	x	x	x	Pile dirt around stalks to blanch.
Lettuce--head	28	x	X	x														*	x	X	X	x	x	x	x	Allow 8-12" per plant for large heads.
--leaf	28																	*	X	X	X					Won't sprout in hot soil.
Melons	32				*	X	X	X	x	x																Rich soil, lots of H2O, lots of room.
Mustard greens	27															*	x	X	X	X	x					Light frost improves flavor.
Okra	32					x	X	X	X	x	x															Pick frequently to maintain production.
Onion--bulb	15	t	t													*	x	X	X	x	xt	*t	t			Use short-day types. Dig when tops die.
--multiplier	15															t	t	t								Divide bulbs frequently.
--scallion	15																*	X	X	x	x	x				Use long-day types.
Parsley	20																*	X	X	X	x	x				Slow to germinate. Otherwise easy.
Parsnip	25	*															*	X	X	x	x	x	x	x	x	Dig root before flower stalks form.
Peas	26	x														*	x	X	X	X	X	x	x	x	x	Best on trellis. Blooms are frost tender.
Pepper	32	i	i	i	i	t	t	t	x	x	x													i	i	Start indoors in Winter. Use 50% shade.
Potato	32	*	t	t	t	*									*	*										Harvest after full bloom.
Pumpkin	32				*	X	X	X	x	x	x	x	x													Plant in late June for Halloween.
Radish	25																*	x	X	X						Best when day-length is short.
Rutabaga	26															*	x	X	X	x	x	*				Harvest before flower stalks form.
Spinach	22																*	x	X	X	X	X				Bolts quickly in Spring.
Squash--summer	32				*	X	X	X	X	x																Pick frequently to maintain production
--winter	32				*	X	X	X	x	x	x	x														The longer left on the vine, the sweeter.
Sunflower	30				x	X	X	x	x	x																Paper bag over head keeps birds off.
Sweet potato	32				*	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t											Cure in warm place before storage.
Swiss chard	26														*	*	x	X	X	X	x					Pick outer leaves for continuous harvest.
Tomatillo	32	i	i	i	t	xt	xt	xt	x	x																Easy.
Tomato	32	i	i	i	t	t	t	t						x		t	t	t						i	i	Start indoors in Winter. Use 50% shade.
Turnip	25														*	*	*	x	X	X	X					Best flavor in cool weather.
Watermelon	32				*	X	X	X	x	x	x															Rich soil, lots of H2O, lots of room.

**Microclimate Note:** The exact growing season depends greatly on your particular microclimate. Areas in your yard have different climates depending on proximity to buildings, walls, pools, trees, etc. Likewise, each neighborhood has a different microclimate based on the lay of the land and general amount of pavement and structures. Many frost-tender plants can be grown through the winter in milder microclimates, though with slower growth rates. With appropriate shading, many heat-sensitive crops can be grown into the summer in outlying areas with cooler nights, though quality and vigor will be reduced. Experiment!