

Low Desert Planting & Harvest Calendar

Brought to you by the Urban Farm, Greg Peterson and Matt Suhr

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Updated October 2020 by Raymond Jess & Greg Peterson to reflect changing climate conditions.

Crop		Hardiness Temp	KEY												Comments												
			JAN 1	JAN 15	FEB 1	FEB 15	MAR 1	MAR 15	APR 1	APR 15	MAY 1	MAY 15	JUN 1	JUN 15		JUL 1	JUL 15	AUG 1	AUG 15	SEP 1	SEP 15	OCT 1	OCT 15	NOV 1	NOV 15	DEC 1	DEC 15
Artichoke-- Globe	20	t	t	t	t	t	t													s/t	s/	t	t	t	t	Light frost helps first year harvest.	
-- Jerusalem	< 0	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b															Comes back every year. Plant from bulb/rhizome	
Asparagus	< 0			b	b	b	b	b													b	b	b	b		Don't harvest until 3rd year.	
Bean--Blackeye	32					s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s		Performs well in full summer heat.	
--Fava	20																				s	s	s	s		Dislikes heat.	
--Garbanzo	25	s	s	s	s															s	s	s	s	s	s	Stays low to ground.	
--Green snap	32				s	s	s	s	s					s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s		Seed will rot if planted in cold soil.	
--Lentil	25	s	s	s	s															s	s	s	s	s	s	Harvest entire plant and thresh when dry.	
--Lima	32				s	s	s	s	s					s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s		Does best with trellis.	
--Pinto	32				s	s	s	s	s					s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s		Harvest entire plant and thresh when dry.	
--Soy	32				s	s	s	s	s					s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s		Use special varieties for edamame.	
--Yardlong	32				s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s		Black-seeded types do best.	
Beet	25		s	s													s	s	s	s	s	s	s		Be sure to thin if you want big beets.		
Bok Choy	22	t	t														s	s	s	s/t	s/t	s/t	t	t	t	Bolts quickly in Spring.	
Broccoli--head	25	t	t														s	s	s	s/t	s/t	s/t	t	t	t	Light frost improves flavor.	
--Raab	25	t	t														s	s	s	s/t	s/t	s/t	t	t	t	Pick frequently to maintain production.	
--Romanesco	27	t	t														s	s	s	s/t	s/t	s/t	t	t	t	Allow 15" spacing between plants.	
Brussels Sprout	22																s	s	s	s/t	s/t	s/t	t	t	t	Only early hybrids do well."Oliver" is best.	
Cabbage--Chinese	24	f	t														s	s	s	s/t	s/t	s/t	t	t	t	Heads form quickly. Be sure to thin.	
--standard	26	t	t														s	s	s	s/t	s/t	s/t	t	t	t	Red varieties take a little longer to head.	
Carrot	23		s	s	s	s	s									s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s		Slow to sprout--mix in a few radish seeds.	
Cauliflower	27	t	t														s	s	s	s/t	s/t	s/t	t	t	t	Fold leaves over exposed heads.	
Celery	28															s	s	s	s	s/t	s/t	s/t	s/t	s/t		Often stringy and bitter in desert conditions.	
Collards	25	t	t														s	s	s	s/t	s/t	s/t	s/t	t	t	Light frost improves flavor.	
Corn--flour	32				s	s	s	s	s			s	s	s	s	s										Allow to totally dry on stalk.	
--ornamental	32				s	s	s	s	s			s	s	s	s	s										Plant in blocks for good pollination.	
--popcom	32				s	s	s	s	s			s	s	s	s	s										Harder kernals than flour com.	
--sweet	32				s	s	s	s	s			s	s	s	s	s										Supersweet var. need very warm soil to sprout.	
Cucumber--Armenian	32				s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s													Withstands heat better than standard types.	
--standard	32				s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s		s	s	s									Harvest frequently for best quality.	
Eggplant	32				s/t	s/t	t	t	t	t																Best production in Fall.	
Endive	25	s	s																	s	s	s	s	s	s	Pull leaves over center to blanch.	
Garlic	10																b	b	b	b						Harvest when tops die back.	
Jicama	32				s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s														Does well with trellis.	
Kale	22	t	t														s	s	s	s/t	s/t	s/t	t	t	t	Pick outer leaves for continual harvest.	
Leek	15	b	b	b													s	b	b	b	b					Pile dirt over stalks to blanch.	
Lettuce--head	28	t	t	t																s	s	s/t	s/t	t	t	Allow 8-12" per plant for big heads.	
--leaf	28	t	t	t																s	s	s/t	s/t	t	t	Won't sprout in hot soil.	
Melons	32				s	s	s/t	s/t	s/t	s/t	s/t	s/t	s/t	s/t	s/t											Rich soil, lots of H2O, lots of room.	
Mizuna	25	t	t																	s	s	s	s/t	s/t	t	t	Good as baby greens or full-size.

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Mustard Greens	27	t	t																s	s	s	s/t	s/t	t	t	Light frost improves flavor.
Okra	32					s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s												Pick frequently to maintain production.
Onion--bulb	15	b	b	b														s/b	s/b	s/b	b	b	b	b	b	Harvest when tops die back. Use short-day type.
--multiplier	15	b	b	b	b	b	b									b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	Don't produce seed. Divide to propagate. Eat tops &
--scallion	15	b	b	b	b	b	b									b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	Use long-day type.
Parsnip	25																		s	s	s	s	s	s	s	Dig root before flower stalks form.
Peas	26																		s	s	s	s	s	s	s	Does best with trellis. Blooms are frost-tender.
Pepper	32			s	s	s/t	s/t	t	t	t	t								s/t	s/t						Start indoors in winter. Best harvest in fall from plants planted in spring.
Potato	32		b	b	b	b																				Harvest when in full bloom. Red potatoes do best.
Pumpkin	32					s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s											Plant June 15 for Halloween.
Radish	25	s	s	s	s	s	s	s											s	s	s	s	s	s	s	Do best when day-length is short.
Rutabaga	26																		s	s	s	s	s	s	s	Harvest before flower stalks form.
Spinach	22	s	s	s	s	s															s	s	s	s	s	Bolts quickly in Spring.
Squash--summer	32					s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s											Pick frequently to maintain production.
--winter	32					s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s											The longer they are left on the vine, the sweeter.
Sunflower	32				s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s											Quite drought-tolerant
Sweet Potato	32					b	b	b	b	b	b															Cure tubers in warm place before storage.
Swiss chard	26	s	s																s	s	s	s	s	s	s	Pick outer leaves for continual harvest.
Tomatillo	32	s	s	s	t	t	t	t	t										t	t	t					Easy. Start seeds indoors for planting after last frost.
Tomato	32	s	s	s	t	t	t	t	t										t	t	t					Do best w/ shade cloth. Start seeds indoors for planting after last frost.
Tumip	25	s	s	s	s											s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	Best flavor in cool weather.
Watermelon	32					s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s											Rich soil, lots of H2O, lots of room.
Herbs																										
Arugula-Annual	15	s	s	s	s														s	s	s	s	s	s	s	May be planted thickly.
Basil-Annual/Perennial	32	s	s	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t					s	s	s	Plants don't like cold & will slow down in winter. Frost
Cilantro-Annual	28	s/t	s/t																	s/t	s/t	s/t	s/t	s/t	s/t	Flowers attract beneficial insects.
Dill-Annual	27	s/t	s/t																	s/t	s/t	s/t	s/t	s/t	s/t	Very easy from seed. Does not transplant well.
Fennel--bulb variety	27	s	s	s	s	s													s	s	s	s	s	s	s	Leave some bulbs in the ground for perennial harvest.
--herb/leaves	25	s	s	s	s															s	s	s	s	s	s	Flowers attract beneficial insects.
Lavender-Annual	0			t	t	t														s	s	s	s			Needs sandy soil.
Mint-Perennial	< 0	t	t	t	t	t													t	t	t	t	t	t	t	Can be invasive. Doesn't come true from seed.
Oregano-Perennial	< 0	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	Keep flowers trimmed for best leaf production.
Parsley-Annual	20	s	s	s															s	s	s	s	s	s	s	Very slow to germinate. Otherwise easy. Self seeds annually
Rosemary-Perennial		t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	Harvest year around.
Sage-Perennial	< 0	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	Many varieties with different requirements.
Thyme-Perennial	< 0	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	Prefers sandy soil.
Hardiness Note	Hardiness temp, 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.																									
Microclimates	The exact season of growing depends greatly on your particular microclimate. A microclimate is any area of your yard that is warmer or cooler than the rest of the yard: such as planting next to a block wall that retains heat into the night. Many frost sensitive plants can be grown through the winter in milder low desert locations, though with slower growth rates. Likewise, with appropriate shading many heat-sensitive crops can be grown into the summer months in outlying areas with cooler nights, though quality and vigor can be reduced.																									