

Date: _____ *****FROST-FREE!*****

- Veggies: Direct seed more carrots and spinach, endive, scallions, turnips, beets, Swiss chard, potatoes.
- Flowers: sunflowers, poppies, summer bulbs (lilies, glads; canna, daylily, alliums, dahlia).
- Harden off celery, cucumbers, eggplant, peppers, melons, pumpkins, tomatoes, & winter squash so they will be ready to transplant when the soil is warmer. Do not be in a hurry to plant your warm-soil seedlings. Seeds are more sensitive to soil temperature than air, and soil can be colder in April than it is in early November. Planting too early, even if there is no frost, only stunts young plants' growth.
- Transplant all hardened-off hardy seedlings. Plant spring bulbs.
- **Watch the weather!** Keep row cover over your tender plants. It will warm the soil faster, keep out hungry birds, & foil the neighbour's cat who may dig up nicely-tilled soil as a WC.

Date: _____ ***1-3 weeks after last frost**

- Veggies: Plant warm season crops like beans, cucumbers, pumpkin, squash, tomatoes. Transplant last of seedlings & direct seed herbs.
- Flowers: transplant last of slow seedlings.

Prepare row cover for carrots and brassica crops and cover mid-May against carrot rust fly and cabbage fly larvae.

- **Watch the weather!** If it is a cool May, do not be afraid to pot-up your hot weather plants, like peppers, melons, and tomatoes one more time, and harden off at the end of May, then transplant. You'll have beautiful strong plants that will set more fruit, set it earlier, and give you a tastier crop right on time.



Master Gardeners
Association of BC

Thanks to Harrowsmith Country Life, West Coast Seeds, & Agriculture Canada for ideas, climate data & some text.

Information in this brochure is for educational purposes only. Use at own risk.

Spring Planting Calendar: A Universal, Week by Week Guide to Sowing Seeds

Instructions:

1. Find your gardening climate zone from one of these websites:
 - a) <http://www.weekendgardener.net/climate-zones-map.htm>
 - b) <http://www.sunset.com/garden/climate-zones/>
 - c) <http://www.plantmaps.com/interactive-british-columbia-plant-zone-hardiness-map.php>
2. Go to the Old Farmer's Almanac website @ www.Almanac.com then the *gardening* tab & follow the menu to *Frost Dates Calculator*
3. Count backwards on your calendar, and fill in the blanks. Ta-Da!

My climate zone is:

My frost date is:

Date: _____ ***11 weeks before last frost**
INDOORS!

- Review seed catalogues, but check shipping charges before ordering.
- Map last year's harvest in veggie beds so you know where to rotate them, then mark for this year. Map your perennial beds, noting who grows where -- especially the over-wintered bulbs.
- Check local store flyers for early sales on gardening supplies.
- Note perennials that only produce flowers in year 2, and several are hard to germinate. Buy a couple as year-old plants that will bloom this year, while the seedlings grow. Most herbs are hardy perennials and are great border plants, so make a spot for them close to your kitchen where they are easy to harvest.
- Start marigolds, columbine, agastache, & (thru mid Feb), artichokes.

Date: _____ ***9-10 weeks before last frost**
INDOORS!

- Veggies: artichoke, leeks, sweet onions, oriental greens, kale & collards, basil, chives, strawberries.
- Flowers: impatiens, violas, pansies, sweet pea.

OUTDOORS: Direct seed broad beans, or as soon as ground thaws.

Date: _____ ***7-8 weeks before last frost**
INDOORS!

- Veggies: asparagus, lettuce, early tomato crop, perennial herbs.
- Flowers: begonias, nicotiana, petunias, sweet peas, nasturtiums.

OUTDOORS:

- Veggies: radishes, cilantro, hardy oriental greens all under cover, & broad beans. In a protected, sunny corner plant peas --- but be prepared to re-plant!
- Flowers: hollyhocks, calendula, cone flowers, zinnias.

Date: _____ ***6 weeks before last frost**
INDOORS!

- Veggies: broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, celery, peppers, & lettuces.

OUTDOORS:

- Veggies: radishes, arugula, garlic (unless sown in autumn), corn salad, cilantro, spinach & hardy oriental greens under cover, peas.
- Flowers: candytuft, cornflower, cosmos, wild flower mix (non-invasive only!), lavender. Harden off or direct-seed marigolds.

As soon as the ground is workable. Spread compost & manure. This also gets all the early weeds sprouting, so you can pull them out while young, and before you add your amendments at planting time.

Date: _____ ***4 - 5 weeks before last frost**
INDOORS!

- Veggies: mid-season tomato, more basil, lettuces & oriental greens, beets, more brassicas (summer cabbages cauliflower, etc.)
- Flowers: snapdragons, hollyhocks, wall flowers, and small-seeded annuals like marigolds, nasturtiums, lavatera and other annuals for

hanging baskets. Pot up tomatoes, planting them up to 1st leaves. The buried stalks will grow roots & develop a better root system.

- Thin crowded flats, keeping only the strongest plants. Keeping weak plants only robs the stronger ones of food and light. If your crop is smaller than you'd hoped, sow again for a late-season harvest.

OUTDOORS: direct seed mescluns (arugula, corn salad, cress, etc.), transplant kale & collard seedlings, or direct seed. Plant more radishes. If you plant parsnips or other late root crops, try interspersing them among the radishes so you get the fast crop and save space while keeping the top soil loose for the slower germinating roots.

Date: _____ ***3 - 4 weeks before last frost**
INDOORS!

- Veggies: cucumbers, summer squash, pumpkins, melons, more brassicas, more annual or tender herbs (savory, marjoram, dill).
 - Flowers: poppies, rudbeckia, and large-seeded annuals like ageratum.
- OUTDOORS:** begin hardening off your cole crop (broccoli, cabbage, kale, etc.), and snapdragons, violas, parsley. Direct seed peas (snap and shelling) in a warm location.

Date: _____ ***2 weeks before last frost**
INDOORS!

- Veggies: eggplant, more peppers & the last group of late tomatoes
- Flowers: half-hardy annuals, more sweet peas.

OUTDOORS:

- Veggies: Last of the peas, & corn salad, spinach, endive, carrots, kohlrabi, fennel. Harden off & transplant lettuces and other tender greens.
- Flowers: California poppies, borage, chives, columbine

Prepare beds for their new plants: weed, spread compost and a dusting of complete organic fertilizer. The cool spring soil needs about 2 weeks to integrate amendments. Add a nitrogen-rich fertilizer (like flax meal) around over-wintered leeks, onions, and garlic. This gives a growth boost, and stops bolting or premature flowering. Mark the spots, & dig in bulb fertilizers for your spring-planted bulbs.