



Average Last Frost

May 15-25	Peas
May 1-10	Lettuce
Apr 25-May 5	Onion sets
Apr 20-30	Broad beans
Apr 10-20	Potatoes

PRINTABLE SEASONAL PLANNING GUIDE

Build Your Personal Garden Start Date

There is no single best month to start a garden. Use this practical sequence to match each task and crop to your local frost risk, soil conditions, and climate.

Au sommaire

- 1 Create your seasonal planting plan
- 2 Before you plant this week
- 3 Match the task to the season
- 4 Keep these planning rules handy

i The key idea

“Starting a garden” can mean planning, starting seeds indoors, sowing outdoors, or transplanting. Choose the timing for the specific task—not just the month on the calendar.

 THE YEAR-ROUND GARDENING GUIDE WHAT TO DO INDOORS & OUTDOORS, MONTH BY MONTH A PRACTICAL CALENDAR FOR HEALTHY PLANTS AND PRODUCTIVE HARVESTS 				
PERIOD	 INDOOR (STARTING & PREP)	 OUTDOOR (IN THE GARDEN)	 EXAMPLES (WHAT TO GROW)	
 January-February	 Plan beds and start suitable long-season crops	 Check tools and avoid frozen or waterlogged soil	 Long-season vegetables, herbs, flowers	
 March-April	 Harden off seedlings	 Prepare beds and sow cool-season crops	 Lettuce, peas, spinach, carrots, radishes, kale	
 May-June	 Finish acclimating tender seedlings	 Transplant warm-season crops after local frost risk passes	 Tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, beans, squash, basil	
 July-August	 Start selected fall crops	 Maintain, irrigate, harvest, and succession-sow	 Greens, beans, radishes, heat-tolerant crops	
 September-October	 Prepare frost covers	 Sow fall crops backward from the first frost date	 Kale, broccoli, carrots, beets, lettuce, radishes	
 November-December	 Review notes and plan next season	 Protect soil with suitable mulch or cover crops	 Winter preparation	
 TIPS FOR SUCCESS  Know your first and last frost dates.  Monitor local weather and microclimates.  Water deeply and consistently, especially in summer.  Healthy soil makes healthy plants.  Succession planting extends your harvest.  Keep records to improve every season.				

INFOGRAPHIE Month-by-month garden planting calendar for indoor seeds, cool-season crops, warm-season transplants, and fall vegetables

Create your seasonal planting plan

1 Start with your local climate

Note your hardiness zone, approximate last spring frost date, first fall frost date, elevation, coastal or inland exposure, and any microclimate created by buildings, pavement, slopes, wind, or low-lying ground.

2 Define what “start” means

Decide whether you are planning beds, starting seeds indoors, direct-sowing outdoors, or transplanting seedlings. Each action has a different timing window.

3 Sort crops by temperature needs

Group cool-season crops separately from warm-season crops so that you can match them to soil, air, and frost conditions.

4 Use late winter for preparation

In many temperate regions, late winter is a useful period for choosing crops, mapping beds, ordering seeds, checking tools, and starting slow-growing plants indoors.

5 Plant cool-season crops when conditions allow

In early spring, consider crops such as lettuce, spinach, peas, carrots, kale, onions, radishes, and broccoli when the soil is workable and temporary frost protection is available.

6 Wait for warm conditions before tender crops

Tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, beans, squash, and basil generally need warmer soil and air. Transplant them after spring frost risk has passed and conditions are warm enough.

7 Plan the fall window too

Use the expected first fall frost to time fall vegetables, protect tender plants, and harvest crops before freezing weather returns.

Before you plant this week

☐ **I checked local frost information and the current forecast**
Historical frost dates are estimates, not guarantees.

☐ **I confirmed that the soil is workable**
Avoid forcing planting into cold or unsuitable soil.

☐ **I identified each crop's temperature requirements**
Separate cool-season crops from warm-season crops.

☐ **I reviewed the seed packet or local growing guidance**
Use crop-specific instructions alongside climate information.

☐ **I have labeled seedlings and supplies ready**
Labels and organized supplies make timing easier to track.

☐ **I prepared temporary frost protection**
Keep frost cloth or another suitable cover available near the frost window.

☐ **I checked for a site-specific microclimate**
Elevation, exposure, wind, shade, buildings, and pavement can shift conditions.

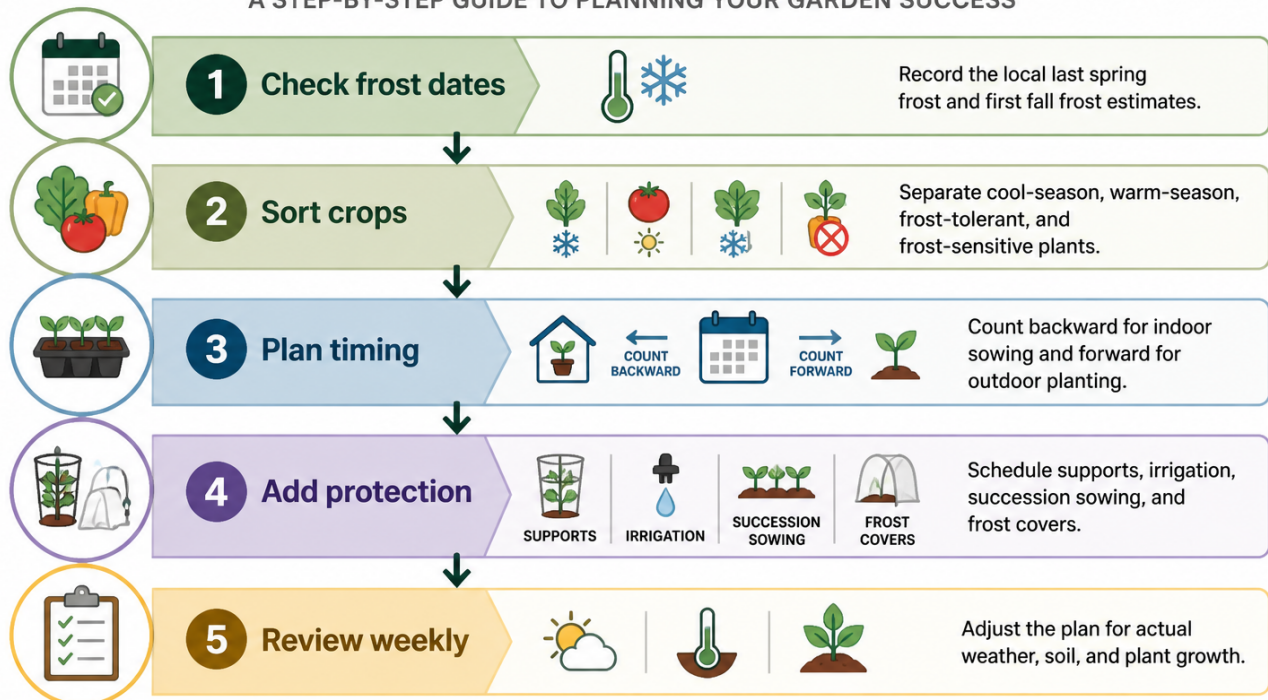
Match the task to the season

Garden task	Useful timing cue	Examples or focus
Plan the garden	Often late winter	Choose crops, map beds, order seeds, and check tools.
Start seeds indoors	Before outdoor conditions are suitable	Useful for slow-growing plants and protected seedlings.

Garden task	Useful timing cue	Examples or focus
Sow cool-season crops outdoors	Early spring, when soil is workable	Lettuce, spinach, peas, carrots, kale, onions, radishes, and broccoli.
Transplant warm-season crops	After the final spring frost and once conditions are warm enough	Tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, beans, squash, and basil.
Prepare a fall garden	Work backward from the first fall frost	Time fall vegetables, protection, and harvests before freezing weather.

How to Build a Personal Garden Planting Schedule

A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO PLANNING YOUR GARDEN SUCCESS



FLOWCHART A five-step visual process for building a planting schedule that fits your climate and crops.

Keep these planning rules handy

A hardiness zone is a starting point for plant selection, not a complete vegetable planting calendar.

The final decision should combine frost information, the forecast, soil conditions, crop requirements, and local guidance.

A late freeze can override a calendar schedule, especially in exposed or low-lying gardens.

The best month to start a garden is the month when your next practical task matches local conditions.

Timing varies by location and year. Use local extension guidance, current forecasts, seed-packet instructions, and actual soil conditions; frost dates are estimates, not guarantees.