



# Vegetable Gardening 101

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## Cool Season Vegetables

### **Very Hardy Vegetables (plant 4-6 weeks before last frost)**

Asparagus	Onion
Broccoli	Pea
Brussels sprouts	Potato
Cabbage	Rhubarb
Horseradish	Rutabaga
Kale	Spinach
Kohlrabi	Turnip
Leaf lettuce	

### **Frost Tolerant Vegetables (plant 2-3 weeks before last frost)**

Beet  
Carrot  
Cauliflower  
Chard  
Chinese cabbage  
Mustard  
Parsnip  
Radish

## Warm Season Vegetables

### **Tender Vegetables (Plant around last frost)**

Beans, snap  
Corn  
New Zealand spinach  
Squash, summer  
Tomato

### **Warm loving Vegetables (plant 1-2 weeks after last frost)**

Beans, lima	Pepper
Cucumber	Potato, sweet
Eggplant	Pumpkin
Muskmelon	Squash, winter
Okra	Watermelon

## Harvesting Common Vegetables

Beans, snap: pods are firm, crisp and fully elongated, but before the seed has developed

Beans, lima: pods are plump and firm; seeds are fully developed, but still green and tender

Beets: when they reach the desired size

Broccoli: head is fully developed, but before it begins to loosen

Cabbage: anytime after the heads form

Carrots: when roots are at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch in diameter

Cauliflower: 7-12 days after blanching begins; heads should be compact, firm and white

Corn (sweet): kernels are fully formed, but not fully mature (juice in the kernel is milky when kernel is punctured)

Cucumbers: at any stage of development (usually eaten immature)

Eggplant: fruits are 6-8 inches long and still glossy

Lettuce: when large enough to use

Muskmelon: rind changes from green to tan or yellow between the netting; stem should separate easily from the vine near the point of attachment

Onion: when most of the tops have fallen over

Peas: pods are swollen

Pepper: green peppers when fully grown and mature; colored bell peppers may be harvested green or allowed to develop color

Pumpkin: when they develop a deep, solid color and the rind is hard

Radish: when they are of usable size and still young

Spinach: when leaves are large enough to use

Squash, summer: when small and tender

Squash, winter: have turned a deep, solid color and the rind is hard

Tomato: when firm and fully colored

Watermelon: when 1. curly tendrils on the stem turn brown, 2. the surface color of the fruit turns dull, 3. the skin does not easily puncture with a thumbnail and feels rough and 4. the bottom of the melon turns from light green to yellow