

Planting Strategy for Zone 8A

****All information taken from and owned by: <https://garden.org/apps/calendar/?q=77803>**

Your planting strategy:

Cole crops like **broccoli, cauliflower, and cabbage** can be direct seeded into your garden around January 20, assuming the ground can be worked, but it's better to start them indoors around December 23 and then transplant them into the garden around February 11. Do the same with **lettuce and spinach**.

Plant **onion starts and potatoes** around January 2. Sow the seeds of **peas** (sugar snap and english) at the same time. If the ground is still frozen, then plant these as soon as the ground thaws.

Do you want to grow **tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants**? Start these indoors around December 23. Then, around February 27 you should start watching the weather forecast and, as soon as no frost is forecast, go ahead and transplant those into the ground.

Now, for all the summer vegetables like **beans, cowpeas, corn, squashes, pumpkins, cucumbers, watermelons, gourds and sunflowers**, you should plant those seeds directly into the ground around March 2, or if your soil is still very cold, once the soil is near 60° F in temperature.

Okay, now here are the cold, hard numbers, along with specific plants:

Crop	Sow seeds indoors	Transplant seedlings into the garden	Direct sow seeds
Asparagus	n/a	Jan 17 - Feb 1	n/a
Beans	n/a	n/a	Mar 2 - Mar 30
Beets	n/a	n/a	Jan 6 - Jan 20
Broccoli	Dec 23 - Jan 6	Feb 3 - Feb 17	n/a
Brussel Sprouts	Dec 23 - Jan 6	Feb 3 - Feb 17	n/a
Cabbage	Dec 23 - Jan 6	Feb 3 - Feb 17	n/a
Cantaloupe	n/a	n/a	Feb 17 - Mar 2
Carrots	n/a	n/a	Jan 20 - Feb 17
Cauliflower	Dec 23 - Jan 6	Feb 3 - Feb 17	n/a
Chard	n/a	n/a	Jan 20 - Feb 3
Collards	Dec 23 - Jan 6	Feb 3 - Feb 17	n/a
Corn	n/a	n/a	Mar 2 - Mar 16

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Cucumbers	n/a	n/a	Mar 2 - Mar 16
Eggplants	Dec 23 - Jan 6	Mar 2 - Mar 16	n/a
Gourds, Squash and Pumpkins	n/a	n/a	Mar 2 - Mar 16
Kale	Dec 23 - Jan 6	Feb 3 - Feb 17	n/a
Kohlrabi	Dec 23 - Jan 6	Feb 3 - Feb 17	n/a
Lettuce	Dec 23 - Jan 6	Jan 20 - Feb 17	Jan 20 - Feb 17
Mustard	Dec 23 - Jan 6	Feb 3 - Feb 17	n/a
Okra	n/a	n/a	Mar 2 - Mar 16
Onions	Dec 16 - Dec 23	Jan 2 - Feb 1	n/a
Peas (English)	n/a	n/a	Jan 2 - Feb 1
Peas (Southern)	n/a	n/a	Mar 2 - Mar 30
Peas (Sugar Snap)	n/a	n/a	Jan 2 - Feb 1
Peppers	Dec 23 - Jan 6	Mar 2 - Mar 16	n/a
Potatoes	n/a	n/a	Jan 2 - Feb 1
Radishes	n/a	n/a	Jan 17 - Mar 16
Spinach	Dec 23 - Jan 6	Feb 3 - Feb 17	Jan 17 - Feb 17
Sweet Potatoes	n/a	Mar 2 - Mar 23	n/a
Tomatoes	Dec 23 - Jan 6	Mar 2 - Mar 16	n/a
Watermelon	n/a	n/a	Mar 2 - Mar 16

For the Fall:

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Your fall planting strategy:

Gardening in the fall can be much more challenging than spring planting, because you are in a race to get your crops mature and harvested *before* the winter frosts begin, around November 29. This means you need to consider how much time each variety needs between planting and picking. Those numbers vary widely between different varieties of the same kinds of plants! Usually the "Days to Harvest" are present on the seed packet.

Most **tomatoes, peppers and eggplants**, for example, require around 100 days to harvest, therefore you'd want to transplant those into the ground around August 21. Anyway, it's important to remember that the numbers in this fall planting guide are only a starting point for you! Good luck and good gardening to you.

Fall is the time to plant **garlic**. Around October 15, take your cloves apart and plant the toes about 3 to 4 inches deep. This may not be accurate! Garlic dates vary wildly around the country. The way to be sure is to use a soil thermometer. When the soil temperature is 60° at a depth of 4 inches, then plant your garlic.

Cole crops like **broccoli, cauliflower, and cabbage** can be direct seeded into your garden around September 20, but because of the heat during that time of year, it's better to start them indoors around August 1 and then transplant them into the garden around September 10. Do the same with **lettuce and spinach**.

Sow **peas** directly around September 15.

Now, for all the usual hot weather veggies like **beans, cowpeas, corn, squashes, pumpkins, cucumbers, watermelons, gourds and sunflowers**, you should plant those seeds directly into the ground around August 16.

Okay, now here are the cold, hard numbers, along with specific plants:

Crop	Sow seeds indoors	Transplant seedlings into the garden	Direct sow seeds
Beans	n/a	n/a	Aug 16 - Sep 15
Beets	n/a	n/a	Sep 15 - Oct 30
Broccoli	Jul 5 - Aug 19	Aug 16 - Sep 30	n/a
Brussel Sprouts	Jul 5 - Aug 19	Aug 16 - Sep 30	n/a
Cabbage	Jul 5 - Aug 19	Aug 16 - Sep 30	n/a
Cantaloupe	n/a	n/a	Aug 1 - Aug 16
Carrots	n/a	n/a	Aug 31 - Oct 30
Cauliflower	Jul 5 - Aug 19	Aug 16 - Sep 30	n/a

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<u>Chard</u>	n/a	n/a	Aug 16 - Oct 30
<u>Collards</u>	Aug 1 - Sep 15	Aug 31 - Oct 15	n/a
<u>Corn</u>	n/a	n/a	Aug 16 - Aug 31
<u>Cucumbers</u>	n/a	n/a	Aug 16 - Aug 31
<u>Eggplants</u>	Jun 20 - Jul 5	Aug 1 - Aug 16	n/a
<u>Garlic</u>	n/a	n/a	Sep 15 - Oct 30
<u>Gourds, Squash and Pumpkins</u>	n/a	n/a	Jul 17 - Aug 16
<u>Kale</u>	Jul 5 - Aug 19	Aug 16 - Sep 30	n/a
<u>Kohlrabi</u>	Jul 5 - Aug 19	Aug 16 - Sep 30	n/a
<u>Lettuce</u>	Aug 31 - Sep 30	Sep 30 - Oct 30	Sep 30 - Oct 30
<u>Mustard</u>	n/a	n/a	Sep 30 - Oct 30
<u>Okra</u>	n/a	n/a	Jul 17 - Aug 16
<u>Onions</u>	n/a	n/a	Oct 30 - Nov 9
<u>Parsley</u>	Jul 17 - Aug 31	Aug 31 - Oct 15	n/a
<u>Peas (English)</u>	n/a	n/a	Aug 31 - Sep 30
<u>Peas (Southern)</u>	n/a	n/a	Jul 17 - Aug 16
<u>Peas (Sugar Snap)</u>	n/a	n/a	Aug 31 - Sep 30
<u>Peppers</u>	Jun 25 - Jul 10	Aug 6 - Aug 21	n/a
<u>Potatoes</u>	n/a	n/a	Aug 31 - Sep 30
<u>Radishes</u>	n/a	n/a	Sep 30 - Oct 30
<u>Spinach</u>	Aug 16 - Sep 30	Sep 15 - Oct 30	Sep 15 - Oct 30
<u>Tomatoes</u>	Jun 25 - Jul 10	Aug 6 - Aug 21	n/a

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Turnips	n/a	n/a	Oct 15 - Nov 14
Watermelon	n/a	n/a	Jul 17 - Aug 16