

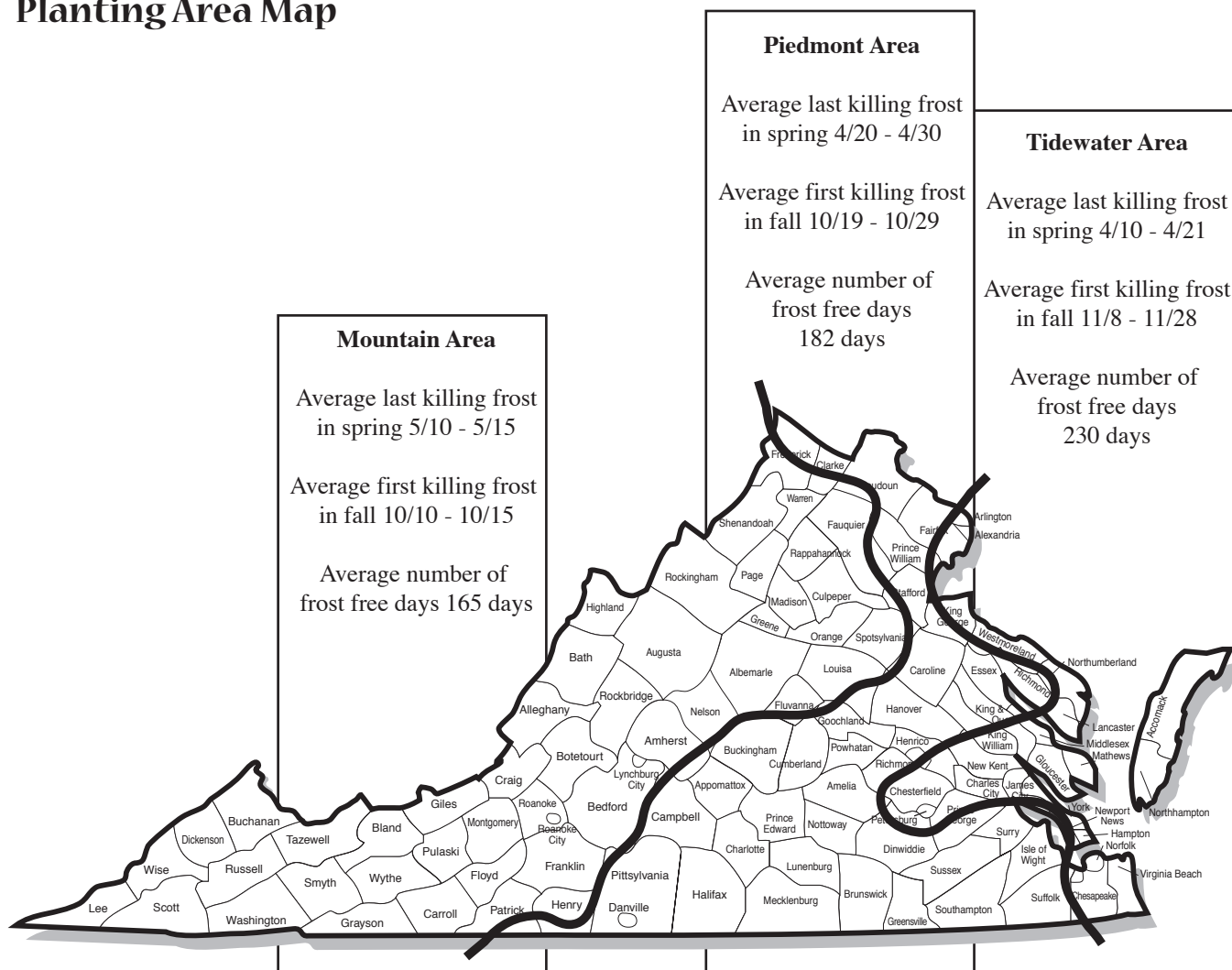
Vegetable Planting Guide and Recommended Planting Dates

Allen Straw, Extension Horticulturist, Southwest Virginia Agricultural Research and Extension Center

When to Plant

The Planting Area Map can be used to determine the average date of last killing frost in your area. Actual dates will vary due to local conditions and yearly temperature fluctuations. You can use the average date of the last killing frost in the spring to adapt the Recommended Planting Dates Chart to your particular area.

Planting Area Map



Recommended Planting Dates

Instructions: To use this chart, write in the day of your average last spring frost on the line above the 00 column. From there, fill in the dates before that frost, to the left of the 00 column, each 10 days prior to the last. For example, if your average last frost date is April 15, write April 15 on the line above 00. Then write April 5 above the column marked 10 to the left of the 00 column, March 26 in the next column to the left, etc. To the right of the 00 column, write April 25, May 5, May 15, etc. Also make note of the approximate first frost date in the fall so you will know dates of end of harvest for tender crops. This will vary for different areas. For more information on fall gardens, use the fall planning calendar in *Fall Vegetable Gardening*, Virginia Cooperative Extension Publication 426-334.

Planting Dates Chart																														
Example																														
Date																														
					3/26	4/5	4/15	4/25	5/4	5/15																				
CROP	6 0	5 0	4 0	3 0	2 0	1 0	0 0	1 0	2 0	3 0	4 0	5 0	6 0	7 0	8 0	9 0	1 0	1 0	1 0	1 0	1 0	1 0	1 0	1 0	1 0	1 0	1 0	2 0		
asparagus **	x	x	x	x	x	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
beans, bush	-	-	-	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	#	#	#	#	#	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	-	-	-	-	-	
beans, pole	-	-	-	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	#	#	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	-	-	-	-	-	
beans, lima	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	-	-	-	-	-	
beans, wax	-	-	-	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	#	#	#	#	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	-	-	-	-	-	-	
beets	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	-	o	o	o	o	o	o	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
broccoli*	-	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	o	o	o	o	o	#	x	x	-	-	-	-	-	o	o	o	o	-	-	
brussel sprouts*+	-	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	-	o	o	o	o	#	#	#	-	-	-	-	-	o	o	o	o	-	-	
cabbage*	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	-	o	o	o	o	o	o	-	x	x	x	-	-	-	-	o	o	o	o	-	-	-	
chinese cabbage*	-	-	-	x	x	-	-	-	-	-	o	o	o	o	-	x	x	x	-	-	-	-	o	o	o	o	o	-	-	
carrots	-	-	x	x	x	x	-	-	o	o	o	o	o	o	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
cauliflower*	-	-	-	x	x	x	-	-	o	o	o	o	-	-	-	x	x	x	x	-	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	-	-
chard, swiss	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
collards	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	-	o	o	o	o	o	-	-	x	x	x	x	-	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	-	-	
cucumbers	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	-	-	-	-	
eggplant*	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	-	-	-	-	
leeks	-	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
lettuce, bibb	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	o	o	o	o	-	-	x	x	x	-	-	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	-	-	
lettuce, leaf	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	o	o	o	o	o	-	-	-	x	x	x	-	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	-	-	-	
muskmelons	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	-	-	-	-	-
mustard	-	x	x	x	#	o	o	o	o	o	-	-	-	-	-	x	x	x	x	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
okra	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	-	-	-	-
onion (set)	x	x	x	x	#	#	#	#	#	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
peas, garden	x	x	x	x	-	-	o	o	o	o	o	o	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
peppers*	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	#	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	-	-	-	-	-
potatoes	-	x	x	x	x	-	-	-	-	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	-	-	-	-
pumpkins	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	-	-	-	-
radish	x	x	#	#	#	o	o	o	o	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
rutabaga	-	-	F	A	L	L	-	P	L	A	N	T	-	O	N	L	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
southern pea	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	#	#	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	-	-	-	-	-
spinach	x	x	x	x	o	o	o	o	o	o	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
squash, summer	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	x	x	x	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	-	-	-	-	-
squash, winter	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	-	-	-	-	-
sweet corn	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	#	#	#	#	#	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	-	-	-	-	-
sweet potato	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	-	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	-	-	-	-	-
tomatoes*	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	#	#	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	-	-	-	-	-
turnips	x	x	x	x	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	-	-	-	-	x	x	x	x	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
watermelon	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	-	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	-	-	-	-	-

Legend:
 ** = do not harvest freshly planted asparagus the first year
 * = Transplants
 + = Use Special Two-Season Varieties Only
 x = Planting Period
 # = Plant and Harvest
 o = Harvest Period
 - = No Action

How Much to Plant

The Vegetable Planting Guide can be used to determine the approximate amount of crop to plant for the desired yield, the amount of seed or number of transplants required for that amount of crop, and proper spacing between plants in a row. In intensive, raised-bed gardens, use the in-row figures between all plants; i.e., use equidistant spacing between plants. Sow seeds to a depth three to five times the diameter of the seed. For mid-summer plantings, dry soils may require you to sow up to twice this depth.

Vegetable Planting Guide						
Crop	Planting Distance in Feet or Inches		Approximate yield per 10 feet of row	Approximate no. of row feet to plant per person	Transplants or seed required per 10 feet of row	
	In Rows	Between Rows			No. of Plants	Amount of Seed
Asparagus	18"	48-60"	3-4 lbs	15-20'	7-8 crowns	
Beans, bush	1-2"	24-36"	3-5 lbs	20-50'		1 oz
Beans, pole	4-12"	36-48"	6-10 lbs	10-30'		1 oz
Beans, lima	3-4"	24-36"	3-5 lbs	20-30'		1 oz
Beans, wax	2"	24-36"	3-5 lbs	20-50'		1 oz
Beets	2-3"	12-24"	8-10 lbs	10'		1/8 oz
Broccoli	12-24"	24-36"	4-6 lbs	10-20'	5-8 or	
Brussels Sprouts	18-24"	30-36"	3-4 lbs	10'	5-7 or	
Cabbage	12-18"	30-36"	10-40 lbs	10-15'	5-8 or	
Chinese Cabbage	12-24"	18-36"	20-30 lbs	10-15'	8-12 or	
Carrots	1-2"	15-30"	7-10 lbs	10-20'		1/5 oz
Cauliflower	12-24"	24-36"	8-10 lbs	10-15'	5-8 or	
Chard, Swiss	6-12"	18-30"	8-12 lbs	5-10'		1/5 oz
Collards	12-24"	24-36"	8-15 lbs	10-15'	5-7 or	1/10 oz
Cucumbers	12-18"	48-72"	8-10 lbs	15-20'		1/10 oz
Eggplant	18-24"	30-42"	10-12 lbs	3-6'	5-7 or	
Endive	9-12"	18-30"	3-6 lbs	5-10'	5-10 or	1/40 oz
Kale	6-18"	18-36"	4-8 lbs	10-15'	6-10 or	1/10 oz
Kohlrabi	4-6"	12-36"	4-8 lbs	5-10'		1/10 oz
Leeks	2-6"	12-30"	10-20 lbs	3-6'		1/10 oz
Lettuce (Bibb)	6-10"	12-24"	4-8 lbs	15-20'		1/40 oz
Lettuce (leaf)	3-6"	12-18"	5-10 lbs	10-15'		1/40 oz
Muskmelons	24-36"	60-90"	15-25 lbs	8-12'	3-5 or	1/8 oz
Mustard	2-4"	18-30"	3-6 lbs	5-10'		1/10 oz
Okra	8-18"	36-48"	5-10 lbs	5-10'	7-10 or	1/5 oz
Onions (sets)	2-4"	12-24"	7-10 lbs	15-25'	30-60	
Peas (English)	1-3"	12-30"	2-6 lbs	40-60'		1/2 oz
Peppers	12-24"	30-36"	5-18 lbs	5-10'	5-7	
Potatoes, Irish	10-18"	24-42"	10-20 lbs	75-100'		1 lb
Pumpkins	2-4'	5-8'	10-20 lbs	10'		1/20 oz
Rutabaga	3-6"	15-30"	8-12 lbs	5-10'		1/8 oz
Southern Peas	3-4"	24-36"	5-18 lbs	25-30'		1 oz
Sweet Corn	6-12"	24-36"	7-10 lbs	40-60'		1/2 oz
Spinach	3-6"	15-30"	4-6 lbs	30-40'		1/8 oz
Squash, summer	18-36"	36-60"	20-80 lbs	5-10'		1/10 oz
Squash, winter	2-4'	3-10'	10-80 lbs	10'		1/10 oz
Sweetpotatoes	12-18"	36-48"	8-12 lbs	75-100'	7-10	
Tomatoes	18-36"	36-50"	15-45 lbs	10-15'	3-7	
Turnips	2-3"	12-24"	8-12 lbs	10'		1/8 oz
Watermelons	3-4'	5-10'	8-40 lbs	10-15'	1-2 or	1/2 oz

This publication was originally authored by Diane Relf, Extension horticulturist (retired), and Alan McDaniel, associate professor, Department of Horticulture, Virginia Tech.