

# Home Grown

## MSU EXTENSION-LIVINGSTON COUNTY

2300 E. GRAND RIVER, HOWELL, MI. 48843 517/546-3950

### VEGETABLE PLANTING SCHEDULE RECOMMENDATIONS

There are three things to consider when planting vegetables: the general weather temperatures at the time of putting in seeds or transplants, chances of frost and the current soil temperature in the top 1 inch of soil.

Garden vegetables can be grouped into two large categories: **cool season** and **warm season**. This makes a difference when they can be planted and grown successfully. Certain vegetables like cabbage and kale do best during the spring and fall. Their flavors may even be enhanced by light frosts. Other vegetables, like tomatoes and green beans cannot tolerate cold or even light frosts.

#### COOL SEASON CROPS

Time of the year to plant seeds or transplant small plants:

Late April to mid May. Some can also be planted during the late summer or early fall for a mid to late fall crop. ( \* )

#### HARDY VEGETABLES

#### HALF-HARDY VEGETABLES

Soil temperatures 50-85 degrees...best above 50 degrees

Asparagus (perennial vegetable)	Beet *
Broccoli	Carrot
Brussels sprout	Cauliflower (difficult to grow)
Cabbage *	Celery (difficult to grow)
Chives (perennial vegetable)	Swiss chard *
Collards (tolerates heat well) *	Chicory
Garlic (start in fall for next season)	Chinese cabbage *
Horseradish (perennial vegetable)	Globe artichoke
Kale (grow as fall crop only) *	Endive
Kohlrabi *	Escarole
Leek	Lettuce
Mustard greens *	Parsnip
Onions	Potato
Parsley	Salsify
Peas	
Radish *	
Rhubarb (perennial)	
Spinach *	
Turnip	

## GENERAL FROST DATES FOR LIVINGSTON COUNTY

For Livingston County, the last frost in the spring is around the last week of May.

The first fall frost is around the last week of September.

Most years, there are approximately 120 days during the growing season. In many years, it may be the lack of sunlight and warmth that causes a decline in warm weather crops ripening if there has not been a frost.

### WARM SEASON CROPS

Time of the year to plant seeds or transplant small plants: end of May to early June.

Best production when put into the garden as transplants (&)

These vegetables have a longer growing season than Livingston County.

There are not enough days from seed to harvest to guarantee a good crop.

### TENDER VEGETABLES

### VERY TENDER VEGETABLES

Soil temperatures 60 – 85 degrees...best above 60 degrees

New Zealand spinach	Cucumber
Snap or green bean	Eggplant &
Edible soybean	Lima bean
Sweet corn	Muskmelon &
Tomato &	Okra
	Peppers, hot &
	Peppers, sweet &
	Pumpkin & +
	Squash
	Sweet potato
	Watermelon &

+ This important if the goal is to grow giant pumpkins

If frost is predicted, cover tender and very tender vegetables with newspaper, sheets, cardboard boxes or other materials. Be aware that plastic sheeting or tarps can intensify cold and will cause freezing damage if touching the plants.

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