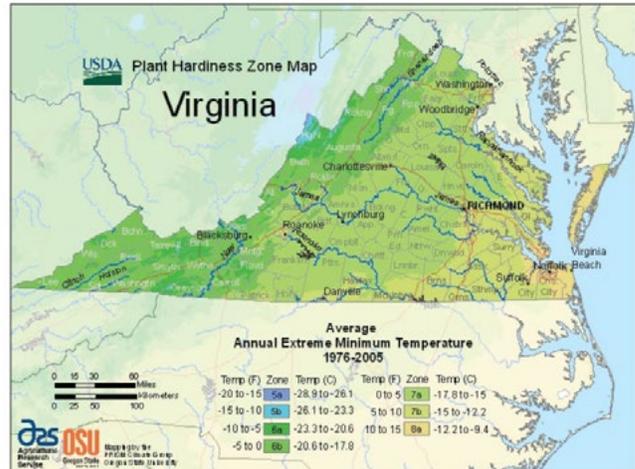


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Growing and Harvesting in Virginia

Virginia is slightly warmer than most of the states along the eastern coast, and it ranges from USDA Hardiness Zone 5 to USDA Hardiness Zone 8. The zones are higher the further south you travel in the state, with the warmest area being in the southeastern corner of the state. First frost dates can be as early as mid-September in Burkes Garden to as late as early November in Virginia Beach. Last frost dates can be as late as early June in Burkes Garden and as early as early April in Norfolk.



What to plant and when:

With higher USDA Hardiness Zones comes a longer growing season. Study the following chart to learn about what crops to plant when to yield the best results.

Zone 5:

- **March:** Begin broccoli inside.
- **April:** Begin beets, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, kale, lettuce, onions, peas, peppers, spinach and tomatoes inside. Plant broccoli outside.
- **May:** Begin beans, corn, cucumbers and squash inside. Plant beets, broccoli, carrots, kale, lettuce, peas and spinach outside.
- **June:** Plant Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, onions, peppers and tomatoes outside.
- **July:** Plant corn, cucumbers and squash outside. Begin beets, broccoli, kale, lettuce, peas and spinach inside.
- **August:** Plant beets, broccoli, kale, lettuce, peas and spinach outside. Begin carrots inside.

[Virginia Planting Calendar on ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)

- **September:** Plant carrots outside.

Zone 6:

- **March:** Begin beets, broccoli, cauliflower, kale, lettuce, onions, peas, spinach and other cool-weather crops inside at this time.
- **April:** Transplant beets, broccoli, cauliflower, kale, peas and spinach outdoors. Begin carrots, tomatoes and peppers inside.
- **May:** Transplant carrots and onions outdoors. Begin squash, corn, cucumbers, beans, Brussels sprouts and cabbage indoors.
- **June:** Transplant peppers and tomatoes outdoors.
- **July:** Transplant beans, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, corn, cucumbers and squash outdoors. Begin spinach, carrots, beets and broccoli indoors to start the fall harvest crops.
- **August:** Begin kale, lettuce and peas indoors. Transplant spinach outdoors.



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- **September:** Transplant kale, lettuce, peas, carrots, broccoli and beets outdoors.

Zone 7:

- **February:** Begin broccoli, cauliflower and peas indoors.
- **March:** Begin beets, cabbage, carrots, kale, lettuce, onions, peppers, spinach and tomatoes indoors. Near the end of March, transplant broccoli, carrots, peas and cauliflower outdoors.
- **April:** Transplant kale, lettuce and spinach outdoors. Begin beans and Brussels sprouts indoors.
- **May:** Transplant onions, peppers and tomatoes outdoors. Begin corn, cucumbers and squash indoors.
- **June:** Transplant beans, Brussels sprouts, corn, cucumbers and squash outdoors.
- **July:** Begin cabbage indoors.
- **August:** Begin beets, broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, kale, lettuce, peas and spinach indoors. Near the end of the month, transplant cabbage outdoors.
- **September:** Transplant beets, broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, kale, lettuce, peas and spinach outdoors for the fall harvest.

Zone 8:

- **February:** Begin beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, kale, lettuce, onions, peas, peppers, spinach and tomatoes indoors.
- **March:** Transplant beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, kale, lettuce, peas and spinach outdoors. Begin beans indoors.
- **April:** Transplant onions, peppers and tomatoes outdoors. Begin Brussels sprouts, squash, corn and cucumbers



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- indoors.
- **May:** Transplant Brussels sprouts, corn and cucumbers outdoors.
- **June:** Transplant beans and squash outdoors.
- **August:** Begin beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, kale and lettuce indoors.
- **September:** Transplant beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, kale and lettuce outdoors. Begin peas and spinach indoors.
- **October:** Transplant peas and spinach outdoors.

Virginia's soil and how it affects agriculture:

Ultisols: This is the most prevalent soil in the state, taking up nearly the entire state. These are red, clayey soils with a higher acid content, meaning they will either need to be used for vegetables that prefer soil with an acidic pH or it will need to be amended.

Inceptisols: Inceptisols are most prevalent in long streaks along the western border of



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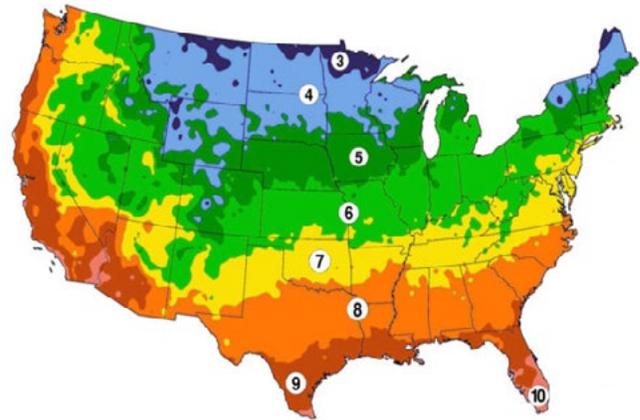
Virginia. Inceptisols are the most common soil across the earth, and they have decent drainage. They can grow crops decently well.

Alfisols: These soils are intermingled with the Inceptisols, and they also appear in long streaks along the western border. Alfisols are fertile soils that are excellent for crop growth.

Average rainfall in Virginia:

Average annual precipitation in the state of Virginia varies depending on if you reside near the coast, near the center of the state or near the state's mountains. In the mountainous areas of Virginia, average annual precipitation varies from 39.1 inches a year in Staunton to 48 inches a year in Wise. In piedmont Virginia, average annual precipitation is slightly lower, ranging from 39.7 inches a year in Arlington to 47.7 inches a year in Arlington. Along the coastal areas of Virginia, average annual precipitation is the highest in the state, varying from 44 inches a year in Colonial Beach to 49.5 inches a year in Suffolk.

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[USDA Hardiness Gardening Zone Finder on ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)



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