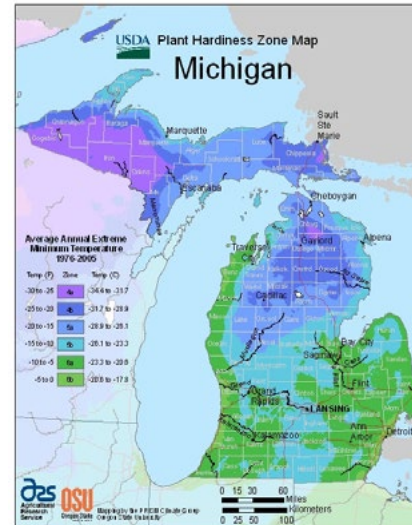


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Growing and Harvesting in Michigan

With its northern position and being near the Great Lakes, Michigan is a little cooler than other states. Its USDA Hardiness Zones are zone 4, 5 and 6. The zones are cooler in the upper peninsula of the state, with Zone 4 encompassing the entire northern part of the state. Zone 5 encompasses the middle of the state, with Zone 6 stretching up along the eastern and western sides on the portions of the state bordered by water. First frost dates occur as early as mid-September in areas like Battle Creek, and they occur as late as mid-October. Last frost dates are as early as early May in areas like Ann Arbor and as late as mid-May in areas like Battle Creek.



[Michigan Planting Calendar on ufseeds.com](http://MichiganPlantingCalendar.onufseeds.com)

What to plant and when:

With a slight chillier atmosphere, be sure to pay attention to the correct USDA Hardiness Zone you reside in so you can plant your vegetables at the right time so they won't be damaged by the cool weather or unexpected frosts.

Zone 4:

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

kale, lettuce and spinach inside.

Zone 5:

- **March:** Begin broccoli inside. Plant potatoes outside.
- **April:** Plant broccoli outside. Begin beets, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, kale, lettuce, onions, peas, peppers, spinach and tomatoes inside. Near the end of the month, plant carrots, kale, peas and spinach outside.
- **May:** Begin beans, squash, corn and cucumbers inside. Plant beets, onions and tomatoes outside.
- **June:** Plant Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, corn, cucumber, peppers and squash outside.
- **July:** Begin beets, broccoli, kale, spinach, lettuce and peas outside.
- **August:** Plant beets, broccoli, kale, lettuce, peas and spinach outside. Begin carrots inside.
- **September:** Plant carrots outside.



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Zone 6:

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

Michigan's soil and how it affects agriculture:

Because much of Michigan isn't consistent in terms of soil quality due topography, climate and drainage, many farmers opt to grow whatever vegetables excel in their specific areas. The state of Michigan has a wide range of dominant soil orders that are present. They include the following:

Alfisols: These soil orders are mostly present in the bottom half and middle of Michigan. Alfisols are fertile soils that are excellent for crop growth.

Entisols: These soil orders are spattered variously across the main part of the state. They are more common along the western



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edge. Entisols are sometimes able to be used for crop growth, although some types of these soils are sandy or shallow and don't hold moisture well.

Histosols: Although these are also present in the main part of the state, Histosols take up much of the upper peninsula. These soils are rich in organic matter.

Inceptisols: These soil orders are most common in the thumb of Michigan and in the eastern tip of the upper peninsula. Inceptisols are the most common soil across the earth, and they have decent drainage. They can grow crops decently well.

Mollisols: These soil orders aren't as common, and they take up small patches in the middle part of the state. These soils are fertile and excellent for crop growth. Mollisols are darker in color than most soils.

Spodosols: These soil orders are heavily present in the northern part of the main portion of Michigan, as well as throughout



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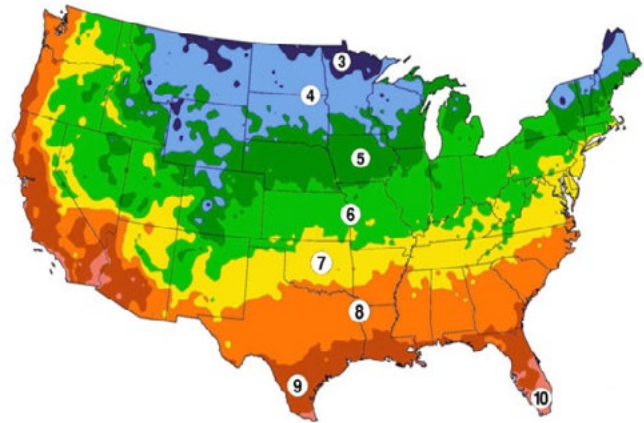
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the upper peninsula. Spodosols are typically found in eastern gulf states, and they are more on the acidic side. These would be a good soil to grow plants in that prefer more acidic soil. Acidic soil would be soil with a pH less than 7.0, and plants to grow in these soils include radishes, sweet potatoes, parsley, broccoli and many others.

Average rainfall in Michigan:

In Michigan, the state gets its annual precipitation from both snow and rainfall. In the thumb and in southeast Michigan, average annual precipitation ranges from 31.4 inches a year in Flint to 37.6 inches a year in Ann Arbor. In west and mid-Michigan, average annual precipitation ranges from 31.8 inches a year in Lansing to 38.3 inches a year in Grand Rapids. In northern Michigan, average annual precipitation ranges from 28.1 inches a year in Alpena to 36.2 inches a year in Ludington. In the upper peninsula, average annual precipitation ranges from 27.8 inches a year in Houghton to 38.5 inches a year in Munising.

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



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