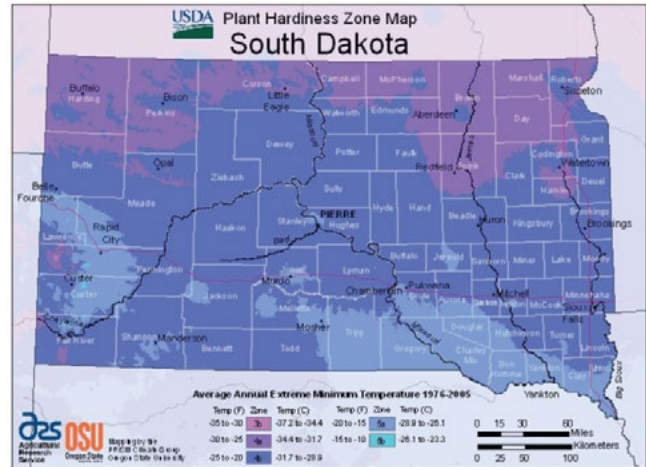


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Growing and Harvesting in South Dakota

South Dakota resides in USDA Hardiness Zones 3, 4 and 5. The majority of the state is in Zones 3 or 4, with the hardiness zones increasing as the state progresses further south. There are patches of Zone 5 on the southwest border and also on the southeast corner. Since South Dakota is a cooler state, its frost dates begin earlier in the fall and end later into the spring. First frost dates can be as early as mid-September in Rapid City and as late as late September in Sioux Falls. Last frost dates can be as early as early May in Sioux Falls and as late as mid-May in Watertown.



[South Dakota Planting Calendar on ufseeds.com](#)

What to plant and when:

South Dakota is slightly warmer than North Dakota, reaching into Zone 5 in parts of the state. That means the growing season in South Dakota is a bit longer than that of North Dakota, but growing seasons are still short. Pay attention to the following planting schedules so you can ensure your vegetables grow to their highest potential and don't get damaged by a late or early frost.

Zone 3:

- **April:** Begin tomatoes and peppers plant inside.
- **May:** Begin spinach, peas, lettuce, kale, cauliflower, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, broccoli and beets inside. Plant potatoes outside.
- **June:** Transplant tomatoes, peppers, spinach, peas, lettuce, kale, cauliflower, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, broccoli and beets outside. Begin beans, cucumbers and carrots inside.

- **July:** Plant beans, cucumbers and carrots outside.

Zone 4:

- **April:** Begin beets, broccoli 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.
- **April:** Begin beets, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, kale,



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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.
- **September:** Plant carrots outside.

South Dakota's soil and how it affects agriculture:

South Dakota has a bit more of a variety in its soil than North Dakota does. There are several dominant soil orders throughout South Dakota, and it also has areas in the state consisting solely of rock and not soil. **Mollisols:** These soils take up the majority of the state, mostly central northern, central southern and the eastern half of the state. These soils are fertile and excellent for crop growth. Mollisols are darker in color than most soils.

Entisols: These soils occur in various patches on the western border of the state. 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.

Alfisols: These soils are mostly along the western border of South Dakota, and they



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also stretch slightly into the center of the state. Alfisols are fertile soils that are excellent for crop growth.

Inceptisols: These soils are the least common in South Dakota, in small patches along the southwestern border of the state. Despite their lacking in South Dakota, Inceptisols are the most common soil across the earth, and they have decent drainage. They can grow crops decently well.

Vertisols: These soils are in small patches along the western border and also stretch into the center of the state. These are very clay-like and have a high-nutrient content, but they aren't good for cultivation due to their high clay content unless they are amended with compost or manure.

Rock: The rock is present in southwestern corner of South Dakota.

Average rainfall in South Dakota:

Average annual precipitation in South



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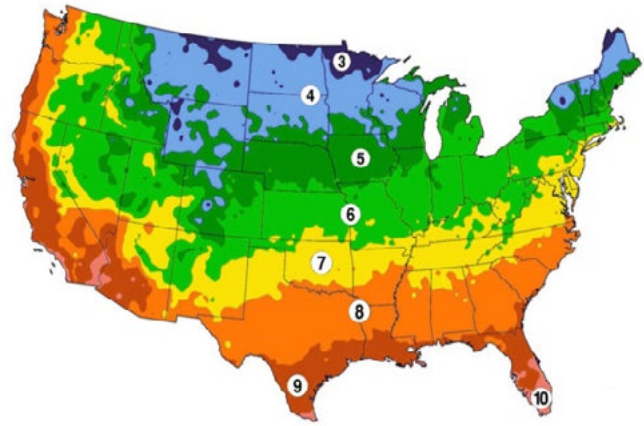


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Dakota comes in both rain and snowfall forms. The amount of precipitation varies depending on which part of the state you reside in. In eastern South Dakota, average annual precipitation can vary from 21.7 inches a year in Aberdeen to 27.6 inches a year in Vermillion. In central South Dakota, average annual precipitation varies from 16.3 inches a year in Mobridge to 24.2 inches a year in Pickstown. In western South Dakota, average annual precipitation varies from 17.7 inches a year in Hot Springs to 30.5 inches a year in Lead.



[USDA Hardiness Gardening Zone Finder](#)
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