

# URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

## Growing and Harvesting in Colorado

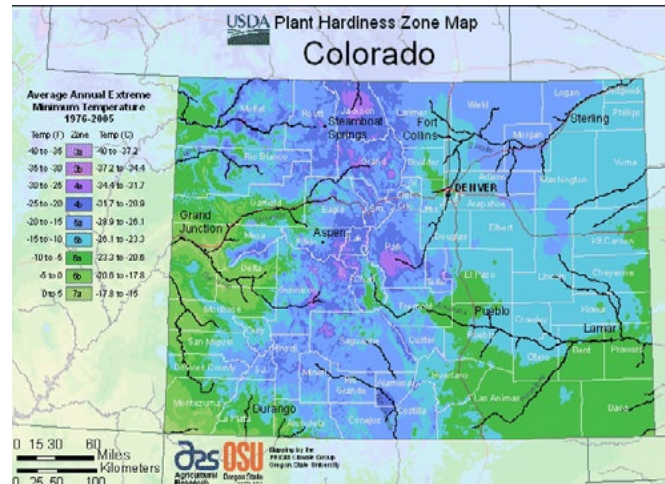
Being a more northern state with high elevation, Colorado has a lower number with USDA Hardiness Zones, with a range from zones 3 to 7. Some areas of Colorado, like Aspen, experience their last frost date as late as June or even July, with a first frost date beginning in August or September. This makes Colorado a better state to grow cool-weather vegetables in. Another issue with Colorado is its elevation is the highest of 50 states, creating yards and land that oftentimes slope. If you are planting your garden on sloped land, choose the side that has southern exposure because this will increase the amount of light your plant receives.

### What to plant and when:

Colorado has many different zones, meaning vegetables will be planted at different times based on where the garden is within the state. Here is a simplified guide on what vegetables to plant and when in Colorado:

**Zone 3:** This zone is in small locations near Aspen. It has a much shorter growing season due to its last frost date lasting sometimes until June.

- **June:** Plant peppers, tomatoes, kale, lettuce and peas outdoors if growing from seeds. If you want to get a bit of a head start with vegetable growth, start these seeds indoors in May and transplant outside in June.
- **July:** Plant beans, beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, cucumber and spinach.



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

**Zone 4:** This zone encompasses a smaller area in Northern Colorado near Steamboat Springs and stretches down near Aspen.

- **April:** Plant vegetables like broccoli, beets, carrots, Brussels sprouts, onions, peas and spinach indoors. Move these transplants outdoors in May.
- **June:** Plant the cool-weather plants outdoors if sowing by seed. Also plant peppers and tomatoes outdoors at this time.
- **July:** Plant beans, corn, cucumber, cauliflower and squash outside.
- **August:** Beets can be planted again outdoors, along with carrots, kale, lettuce and spinach.

**Zone 5:** Zone 5 includes a large area in Colorado, stretching from Northwest Colorado down to the central areas of the state and back up to include cities in the Northeast areas of the state as well.

- **March:** Begin broccoli seeds indoors
- **April:** Plant broccoli, beets, kale, peas



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and spinach outside.

- **May:** Begin beans and onions indoors. Plant carrots outside.
- **June:** Plant Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, corn, cucumber, onions, peppers, tomatoes and squash outdoors.
- **July:** Plant beans outdoors.
- **August:** Beets, broccoli, carrots, kale, lettuce, peas and spinach are ready to be planted outdoors for a second season.

**Zone 6:** Zone 6 includes areas on the western side and the southeastern side of the state.

- **April:** Plant beets, broccoli, cauliflower, kale, lettuce, peas and spinach outdoors. These plants can be planted inside in March. Begin tomatoes inside.
- **May:** Plant carrots and onions outdoors.
- **June:** Plant tomatoes, peppers, corn, cucumber and squash outdoors.
- **July:** Plant cabbage and Brussels sprouts outdoors.
- **August:** Beets, broccoli and spinach can be planted outdoors.
- **September:** Carrots, kale, lettuce and peas can be planted outdoors.

**Zone 7:** Areas with a USDA Hardiness Zone 7 are limited, and include certain thin stretches along the westside of the state.

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



[Vegetable seeds and plants available at ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)

- **July:** Plant squash outdoors.
- **September:** Plant beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, kale, lettuce, peas and spinach outdoors again.

## Colorado's soil and how it affects agriculture:

Much of the soil in Colorado consists of heavy clay, which makes it tough for vegetables to extend their roots into the soil. A common problem in Colorado soils can be a high pH or a high salt content. For soils with a higher pH content, amend with sphagnum peat because that has a high acidity and can help lower the pH in soil. Do not amend with Colorado mountain peat, because this type of peat generally has a higher pH. Colorado has a big livestock industry, so compost and manure is easily obtainable. However, animal manure is generally higher in salt and will not aid in lowering the salt content of the soil. If your Colorado soil has a high salt content, opt for plant-based composts, as those are lower in salt.



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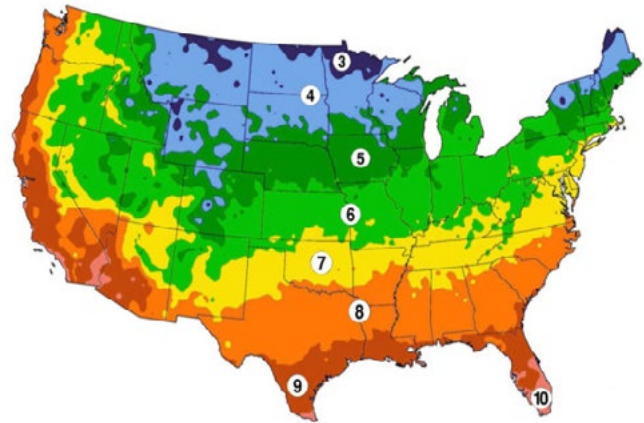
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## Average rainfall in different sections of Colorado:

Average annual precipitation can be as low as 7 inches in Western Colorado and reach as high as 24.9 inches per year in Aspen. On the front range and in Eastern Colorado, average annual precipitation can range from 12.4 inches per year to 20.7 inches per year in Boulder. Some of this precipitation does come from snow, so gardeners should keep an eye on rainfall during hot spells and water accordingly.

Check out our wide selection of vegetable seeds and plants at [ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)!



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



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