

URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

Growing and Harvesting in Florida

Florida has a USDA Hardiness Zone range of zones 8 to 10. Zones, and temperatures, will increase the more southern in the state. Zone 8 goes just south of Ocala, Zone 9 goes just south of Sarasota and Zone 10 encompasses the bottom portion of the state. In certain areas like Fort Lauderdale, Tampa and others, there is no frost. In more northern areas like Tallahassee, the first frost date is as late as November 25 and the last frost date is early March. Even if a gardener resides in northern Florida where frost will occur, this still makes for a long growing season.



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

What to plant and when:

Planting schedules vary greatly in the state of Florida since the state is so long, it encompasses three different hardiness zones which allows for three very different growing schedules.

January: Turnips and potatoes can be planted in central and northern Florida during the cooler months of January until March. For southern Florida, plant these vegetables more in November or December.

February: Plant tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers in the northern areas of Florida. Plant one month earlier for the central areas of Florida. Plant beans, corn, pumpkins, squash and watermelon can be planted again at this time in the central areas of Florida.

March: Plant beans, corn, pumpkin, squash, and watermelon in March and April in the northern areas of Florida.

July: Tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers can be planted again in July in the northern areas of Florida.

August: Until winter, broccoli can be planted beginning in August in the northern areas of Florida. For northern areas, broccoli can be grown into February, but for central areas, harvest broccoli in January. Follow the broccoli planting schedule for onions, but extend the planting time by an extra month. For the southern areas of Florida, plant tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers from August until March. Beans, corn, pumpkins, squash and watermelon can be planted again at this time in the northern areas of Florida.

September: From September until March, plant beets, carrots, kohlrabi and radishes in the northern areas of Florida. Begin broccoli seed planting in September for the southern areas of Florida.



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October: From October until March, plant beets, carrots, kohlrabi and radishes in the central areas of Florida. Plant these same vegetables from October until February in the southern areas of Florida. Plant beans, corn, pumpkins, squash and watermelon can be planted again at this time in the southern areas of Florida.

Florida's soil and how it affects agriculture:

Eight of the nation's 12 soils are represented in just the state of Florida. Most commonly, the soils are dark with some on the more acidic side and others being rich with organic matter. Soil will differ, especially in the southern part of Florida where bogs and marshes are present.

- Alfisols are clayey soils forming under forest. Alfisols are rich in nutrition and are good for agriculture, but they will retain moisture because of the clay content. These soils are typically found on the east and northwest coasts of Florida, with some Alfisols soil in the southwestern corner of the state.
- Entisols are common in areas with high erosion like sand dunes. They are commonly found on the south coast, central Florida and the panhandle.
- Histosols are dark and full of rich, organic matter. This is a great soil to plant in, as it nourishes the crops. Its found near swamps and marshes, such as in southern Florida, and between the two coasts.
- Inceptisols are in the Everglades, and near the central east coast. They are usually shallow and young soils.



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

- Mollisols are scattered throughout the state, and are dark and rich in organic matter. This soil is great to grow crops in, and it retains lots of water.
- Spodosols are common throughout the state of Florida, usually in the central regions. These soils have a high sand content and do not retain moisture well, but it can be used for agriculture if the area receives lots of rainfall. These soils are light in color.
- Ultisols are similar to alfisols, but they have poor nutrients. Typically, these soils are acidic and don't contain as much organic matter as alfisols do. If amended, these soils can be used for agriculture.

Average rainfall in Florida:

Despite the heat in southern Florida, this portion of the state can receive plenty of rainfall. The average annual rainfall in southern Florida varies from 39.8 inches per year in Key West up to 70.4 inches per year in Hialeah.



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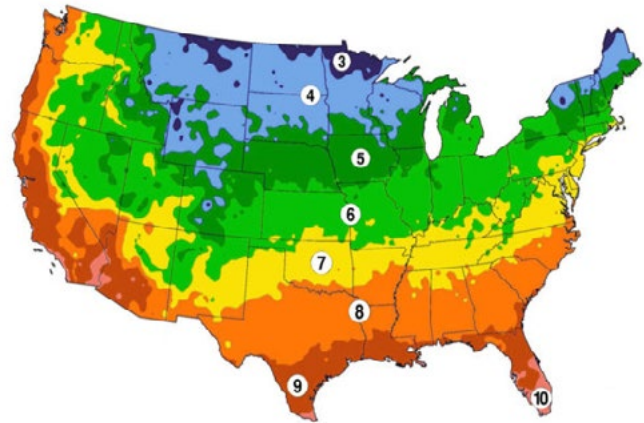
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In central Florida, average rainfall varies from 46.3 inches per year in Tampa to 54.8 inches per year in Lakeland. In northern Florida, average rainfall varies from 49 inches per year in St. Augustine to 52.6 inches per year in Lake City.

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[USDA Hardiness Gardening Zone Finder on ufseeds.com](#)



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