

# URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

## Growing and Harvesting in Kentucky

Kentucky's USDA Hardiness Zones don't vary much, and the state only covers two zones: zone 6 and zone 7. The progression of the zones throughout the state is strictly vertical, with zone 6 covering the upmost portion of the state with zone 7 expanding throughout most of central Kentucky and into the southern parts of the state. First frost dates won't begin until October, and last frost dates can stretch from late April into mid-May depending on location. Louisville's first frost date is Oct. 20 and its last frost date is April 19.



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

### What to plant and when:

Since Kentucky only encompasses two different USDA Hardiness Zones, planting times won't differ too much throughout the state. Planting times will move up earlier in the year in Zone 7, as well as have a longer growing season in general due to the warmer weather.

#### Zone 6:

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

- **August:** Plant beets, broccoli and spinach outside. Begin carrots, kale, lettuce and peas inside.
- **September:** Plant carrots, kale, lettuce and peas outside.

#### 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,



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carrots, cauliflower, kale, lettuce, peas and spinach outdoors for the fall harvest.

- **September:** Transplant beets, broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, kale, lettuce, peas and spinach outdoors for the fall harvest.

### Kentucky' soil and how it affects agriculture:

There are three main types of soil throughout Kentucky. These soils have different names than commonly known types, and they are specific to Kentucky. Although all three soils grow different types of agriculture, all three have good drainage conditions which leads to healthy grow. The three soils are as follows:

**Baxter series:** This soil is mostly on the tops of ridges or along hillsides. It also can be found throughout woodland areas. It mostly is a fine gravel, loamy, and clayey consistency. The Baxter series soil can reach as deep as 99 inches from the surface and is often found on slopes. Grains, tobacco, fruit and vegetables can be grown in this soil.

**Crider series:** This soil is in the western and central areas of Kentucky. It covers one-half million acres across 35 counties in the state, making it very prominent and easy to find. It is considered the state soil of Kentucky. Crider series soil also can be known as alfisol soil. Alfisols are fertile soils that are excellent for crop growth. The soil is commonly used in pastures, and it is a reddish-brown color and has a silt-like consistency. Mostly, soybeans, grains, tobacco and corn can be grown in this soil.

**Maury series:** This soil is mostly found in the upland parts of the state. It is an



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easily-crumbled, silt-like soil with a red-brown color for the topsoil. A little lower down, it is a yellow-red color. It is rich in iron-manganese in the lower subsoils. The Maury series soil may not cultivate vegetables well, but this soil can be used to grow black cherry, walnut, ash and elm trees. Other uses for this soil include growing coffee and hackberry.

### Average rainfall in Kentucky:

Average annual precipitation in Kentucky includes precipitation from both rain and snow fall. Average annual precipitation in eastern Kentucky varies from 44.1 inches a year to 49.4 inches a year. North central Kentucky receives an average of 42.5 inches per year to 50.4 inches a year. South central Kentucky receives an average of 49.7 inches a year to 52.4 inches a year. Western Kentucky receives an average of 44.8 inches a year to 51.2 inches a year.

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