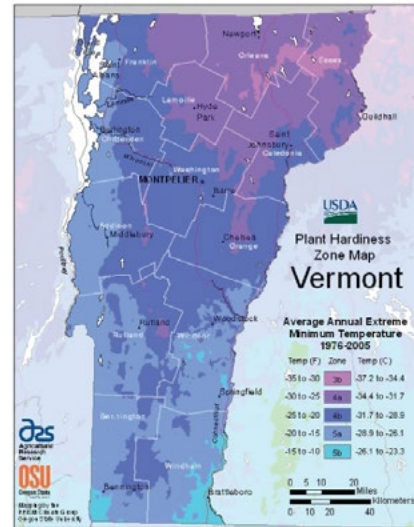


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Growing and Harvesting in Vermont

Vermont ranges in USDA Hardiness Zones 3-5, and the zones are higher as the state progresses south. The northeastern corner of the state is a cooler zone than the northwestern corner. First and last frost dates can vary depending on which part of the state you reside in, and be sure you know your frost date so an early frost doesn't harm your crops. First frost dates in Vermont can occur as early as mid-September in Barre and as late as mid-October in South Burlington. Last frost dates can be as early as late April in South Burlington and as late as early June in Barre.



Vermont Planting Calendar on ufseeds.com

What to plant and when:

Since Vermont is only within USDA Hardiness Zones 3-5, its overall growing season will be much shorter than more southern states. Study the following chart to learn when the best time to plant certain vegetables is.

Zone 3:

- **April:** Begin tomatoes and pepper plants 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, 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, cucumbers 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.



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- **May:** Begin beans, squash, corn and cucumbers inside. Plant beets, onions and tomatoes outside.
- **June:** Plant Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, corn, cucumbers, 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.

Vermont's soil and how it affects agriculture:

Vermont doesn't have as many different dominant soil orders as some states, but the soil it does have is loamy and acidic. Vermont has always used agriculture and farming as one of its main industries, however the largest is dairy farming and not crops. Within Vermont's crop industry, much of the sales are in greenhouse and nurseries and not open farmland. Main crop products include hay, maple products, apples and sweet corn. Crops like hay, oats and grain are grown to feed the state's livestock population. The most popular vegetables to grow in the state are sweet corn and potatoes, and apples lead as the most popular fruit to grow.

Spodosols: These soils are the most prevalent in the state of Vermont, taking up most of the middle of the state and extending from the northern border to the southern border. 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



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grow in these soils include radishes, sweet potatoes, parsley, broccoli and many others.

Inceptisols: These soils are most prevalent along both the eastern and western border of Vermont. Inceptisols are the most common soil across the earth, and they have decent drainage. They can grow crops decently well.

Alfisols: These soils are only present as a very small patch along the western border of the state. Alfisols are fertile soils that are excellent for crop growth.

Average rainfall in Vermont:

The state of Vermont experiences higher annual precipitation than most southern states, but the exact amount varies depending on where you reside within the state. In addition to rainfall, average annual precipitation includes snowfall as well. In Southern Vermont, average annual precipitation ranges from 40.5 inches a year in Rutland to 51.3 inches a year in



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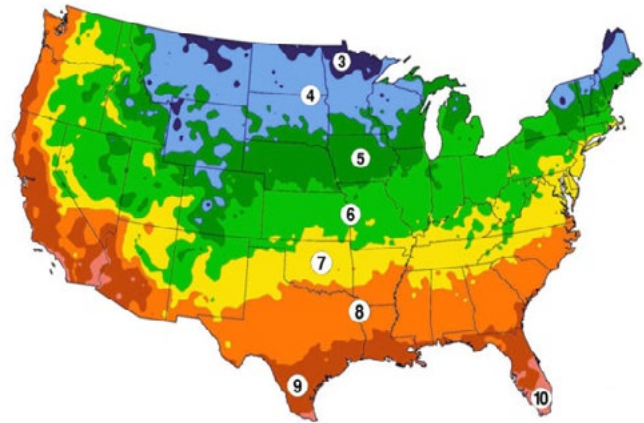
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Readsboro. In Central Vermont, average annual precipitation varies from 37.3 inches a year in Montpelier to 48.1 inches a year in Rochester. In Northern Vermont, average annual precipitation takes a large jump, ranging from 33.6 inches a year in South Hero to 81.3 inches a year in Mount Mansfield.

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



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