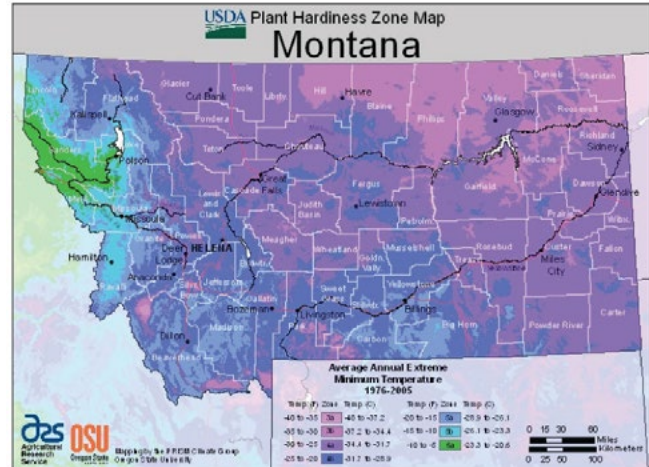


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Growing and Harvesting in Montana

Montana's USDA Hardiness Zones are on the cooler side, ranging from Zones 3 to 6. Zone 6 is only present along the western border of the state, and the rest of the state is mostly in Zone 4 and 5. Zone 3 is present along the northern border of the state. With its lower USDA Hardiness Zones, this means Montana has an earlier frost that lasts longer. Frost dates begin as early as mid-August and as late as early September. Frost dates end as early as late May and can last as late as mid-July.



What to plant and when:

Since much of the state of Montana is in cooler USDA Hardiness Zones, pay attention to when to plant the following vegetables so young seedlings don't get damaged by cold temperatures or late frosts.

Zone 3:

- **April:** Begin tomato 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.

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

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. 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.
- **May:** Begin beans, squash, corn and cucumbers inside. Plant beets, onions and



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tomatoes outside.

- **June:** Plant Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, corn, cucumber, 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.

Zone 6:

- **March:** Begin beets, broccoli, spinach and other cool-weather crops inside at this time.
- **April:** Transplant beets, broccoli, cauliflower, kale, peas and spinach outdoors. Begin carrots, tomatoes and peppers inside.
- **May:** Transplant carrots and onions outdoors. Begin squash, corn, cucumbers, beans, Brussels sprouts and cabbage indoors.
- **June:** Transplant peppers and tomatoes outdoors.
- **July:** Transplant beans, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, corn, cucumbers and squash outdoors. Begin spinach, carrots, beets and broccoli indoors to start the fall harvest crops.
- **August:** Begin kale, lettuce and peas indoors. Transplant spinach outdoors.
- **September:** Transplant kale, lettuce, peas, carrots, broccoli and beets outdoors.

Montana's soil and how it affects agriculture:

There are several different dominant soil orders throughout Montana.



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

Alfisols: These soils are intermittently spread throughout the center of the state. These soils are fertile and excellent for crop growth.

Andisols: These soils are present in the northwestern border of the state. Andisols are formed from volcanic ash, and these soils are usually light, fluffy and easily tilled. These soils will hold a lot of water. Despite these properties, Andisols are usually very fertile.

Mollisols: These soils are widespread throughout the entire state. These soils are fertile and excellent for crop growth. Mollisols are darker in color than most soils. Entisols: These soils are widespread along the east-central portion 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.

Inceptisols: These soils are present in the south and east-central portion of the state.



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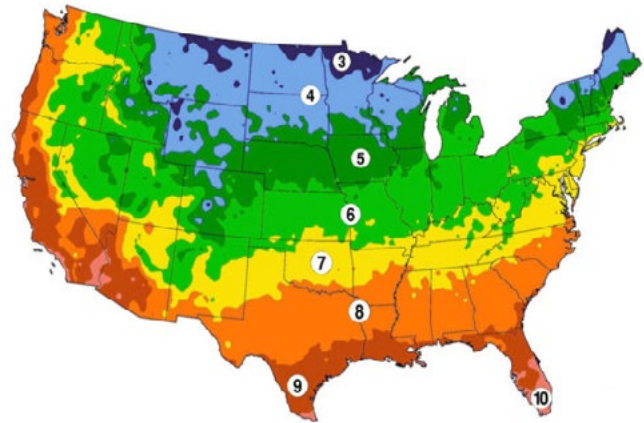
Inceptisols are the most common soil across the earth, and they have decent drainage. They can grow crops decently well.

Vertisols: These soils are only present in small patches in the center portion of the state. These soils may have high nutrient content, but they are mostly clay, which makes them not so great for cultivation without amendments to the soil.

Average rainfall in Montana:

Montana's annual precipitation comes from both rain and snowfall. In northwestern Montana, average annual precipitation ranges from a low 10.9 inches a year in Cut Bank to 29.2 inches a year in West Glacier. In Southwestern Montana, average annual precipitation ranges from 10 inches a year in Gardiner to 28 inches a year in Hebgen Lake Dam. In southcentral Montana, average annual precipitation ranges from 13.7 inches a year in Billings to 24.8 inches a year in Mystic Lake. In eastern Montana, average annual precipitation ranges from 10.2 inches a year in Elwell Lake to 16.9 inches a year in Lewistown.

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



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