URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH **Growing and Harvesting in New York**

New York ranges in USDA Hardiness Zones 3-7. First and last frost dates vary depending on which part of the state you reside in, so take care to know which one applies to you. First frost dates can be as early as late August in Lake Placid and as late as the end of October in New York City. Last frost dates can be as early as mid-April in New York City and as late as mid-June in Lake Placid.

What to plant and when:

Since New York USDA Hardiness Zones can get as low as Zone 3 and as high as Zone 7, vegetables will need to be planted at different times depending on where you live in the state.

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.
- ٠ July: Plant beans, cucumbers and carrots outside.

Zone 4:

- April: Begin beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, kale, onions, peas, peppers, spinach and tomatoes. Plant potatoes outside.
- May: Plant beets, broccoli, carrots, kale, lettuce, peas and spinach outside.

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New York Planting Calendar on ufseeds.com

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

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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, cauliflower, kale, lettuce, onions, peas, 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.

Zone 7:

- **February:** Begin broccoli, cauliflower and peas indoors.
- **March:** Begin beets, cabbage, carrots, kale, lettuce, onion, peppers, spinach and tomatoes indoors. Near the end of March, transplant broccoli, carrots, peas

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Vegetable seeds and plants available at ufseeds.com

and cauliflower outdoors.

- **April:** Transplant kale, lettuce and spinach outdoors. Begin beans and Brussels sprouts indoors.
- **May:** Transplant onions, peppers and tomaotes 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, carrots, cauliflower, kale, lettuce, peas and spinach indoors. Near the end of the month, transplant cabbage outdoors.
- **September:** Transplant beets, broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, kale, lettuce, peas and spinach outdoors for the fall harvest.

New York's soil and how it affects agriculture:

The main dominant soil orders in New York are listed as follows:

Spodosols: These soils are mostly present in the northeastern corner of the state. Spodosols are typically found in

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

Inceptisols: These soils are mostly present in the southern half of the state. Inceptisols are the most common soil across the earth, and they have decent drainage. They can grow crops decently well.

Alfisols: These soils stretch in a thin line from the western border about midway through the state. Alifisols are fertile soils that are excellent for crop growth.

Average rainfall in New York:

Average annual precipitation in New York varies greatly depending on which part of the state you reside in. In downstate New York, average annual precipitation varies from 42.8 inches a year near the New York JFK Airport to 50.1 inches a year in Bridgehampton. In the Hudson Valley and Catskills, average annual precipitation varies from 39.4 inches a year in Albany to 62.8 inches a year in Slide Mountain. In the Adirondacks, average annual precipitation varies from 35 inches a year in Massena to 50 inches a year in Old Forge. In Central New York, average annual precipitation varies from 36.3 inches a year in Elmira to 43.7 inches a year in Utica. In western New York, average annual precipitation varies from 34.3 inches a year in Rochester to 45.2 inches a year in Jamestown.

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