

# URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

## Growing and Harvesting in Mississippi

Mississippi's USDA Hardiness Zones range from Zone 7 to Zone 9, making it a warmer state where frosts begin later in the year and end sooner. The zones progress horizontally across the state, with Zone 7 covering the upper portion of the state, Zone 8 in the middle and Zone 9 in the southern portions. Depending on the zone, Mississippi's frost dates can begin as early as mid-October or as late as mid-November. The last frost dates in the state are as early as mid-March and as late as late April.

### What to plant and when:

Since Mississippi is a hotter state, some of the growing seasons for certain vegetables may begin sooner in the year and last much shorter. Pay careful attention to what to plant and when so the vegetables don't get scorched.

#### Zone 7:

- **February:** Begin broccoli, cauliflower and peas indoors.
- **March:** Begin beets, cabbage, carrots, kale, lettuce, onions, peppers, spinach and tomato 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,



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

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.

#### Zone 8:

- **February:** Begin beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, kale, lettuce, onions, peas, peppers, spinach and tomatoes indoors.
- **March:** Transplant beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, kale, lettuce, peas and spinach outdoors. Begin beans indoors.
- **April:** Transplant onions, peppers and tomatoes outdoors. Begin Brussels sprouts, squash, corn and cucumbers indoors.
- **May:** Transplant Brussels sprouts, corn and cucumbers outdoors.
- **June:** Transplant beans and squash outdoors.



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- **August:** Begin beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, kale and lettuce indoors.
- **September:** Transplant beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, kale and lettuce outdoors. Begin peas and spinach indoors.
- **October:** Transplant peas and spinach outdoors

### Zone 9:

- **January:** Begin broccoli, lettuce, lettuce, onions, peas, peppers, spinach and tomatoes indoors.
- **February:** Begin beets, beans, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, corn and cucumbers indoors.
- **March:** Transplant cauliflower, tomatoes, peppers, onion, cucumbers, corn, carrots and beans outdoors. Begin Brussels sprouts and squash indoors.
- **April:** Transplant Brussels sprouts and squash outdoors.
- **July:** Begin peppers and tomatoes inside for a second season.
- **August:** Begin broccoli, corn and cucumbers
- **September:** Begin beans, beets, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, lettuce and spinach indoors. Transplant peppers, tomatoes and broccoli outside.
- **October:** Transplant beets, beans, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, corn, cucumbers, lettuce and spinach outside. Begin peas and kale.
- **November:** Transplant peas and kale outside.

## Mississippi's soil and how it affects agriculture:

Mississippi has seven dominant soil orders



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present throughout the state, making it a state with diverse soil.

**Ultisols:** These soils take up roughly half of the state and are mostly present on the eastern side. Ultisols are full of hard clay, and gardeners should amend the soil with lime and fertilizer to make it more usable for agriculture.

**Vertisols:** These soil orders border the western side of the middle 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.

**Alfisols:** These soil orders are spread out intermittently throughout the middle of the state in a narrow, vertical line. Alfisols are fertile soils that are excellent for crop growth.

**Histosols:** This soil is found in the freshwater, brackwater or marshes in the coastal areas of the state along the Gulf of



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Mexico. These soils are rich in organic matter.

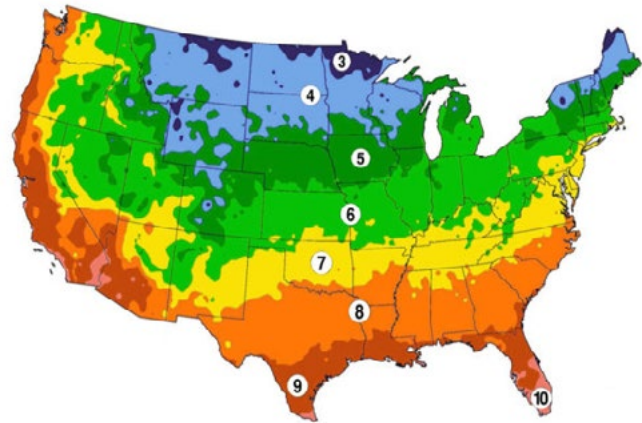
**Spodosols:** This type of soil is present in southern Mississippi. These soils are often found near forested areas. Spodosols are typically found in eastern gulf states, and they are more on the acidic side. These would be a good soil to grow plants in that prefer more acidic soil. Acidic soil would be soil with a pH less than 7.0, and plants to grow in these soils include radishes, sweet potatoes, parsley, broccoli and many others.

**Inceptisols:** This type of soil is present in the barrier islands and gulf coast of Mississippi. Inceptisols are the most common soil across the earth, and they have decent drainage. They can grow crops decently well.

**Entisols:** This type of soil is present in the steep, rocky areas 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.

## Average rainfall in Mississippi:

Depending on the location of the city or town, Mississippi areas receive different rainfall throughout the year. On the gulf coast, average annual precipitation ranges from 63.1 inches a year to 65.7 inches a year. In southern Mississippi it's a little dryer, with average annual rainfall ranging from 56.6 inches a year to 61.6 inches a year. In Central Mississippi, average annual precipitation ranges from 51.8 inches a



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

year to 56.2 inches a year. In Northern Mississippi, average annual precipitation ranges from 53.5 inches a year to 59.2 inches a year.

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