

URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

Growing and Harvesting in Maryland

Maryland encompasses four USDA Hardiness Zones – zones 5, 6, 7 and 8. Zone 5 is only present in the bottom of the northwestern corner. Zone 6 covers a thin line along the northernmost part of the state, and Zone 7 includes much of middle and southern parts of the state. Zone 8 is in the southernmost part of the northeastern corner. Maryland's frost dates can vary, beginning as early as mid-October and stretching as late as into late October. The state's last frost dates range from early April to late April. There is an average of 170 days between the last and first frost dates.



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

What to plant and when:

Since Maryland covers four different USDA Hardiness Zones, vegetable planting start times vary per zone. Be sure to identify which zone you live in so you can plant vegetables at the right time, when the weather won't damage the growth process.

Zone 5:

- **April:** Plant beets, broccoli, carrots, kale, peas and spinach outside. These vegetables can be started indoors in March and transported outside to the garden in April.
- **May:** Begin beans, corn and cucumbers inside.
- **June:** Plant beans, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, corn, cucumber, onions, peppers and tomatoes outside.
- **July:** Plant squash outside.
- **August:** Plant beets, kale, lettuce, peas, spinach and broccoli again.
- **September:** Plant carrots again.

Zone 6:

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

Zone 7:

- **March:** Plant broccoli, cauliflower and peas outside. Begin these plants inside in February. In March, begin tomatoes, spinach, onions, lettuce, kale, carrots,



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cabbage and beets inside.

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

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.
- **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.



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

- **October:** Transplant peas and spinach outdoors.

Maryland's soil and how it affects agriculture:

Maryland has four main dominant soil orders throughout the state. It is mostly dominated by Ultisols, and splits the remaining soils throughout the state.

Ultisols: This soil order encompasses most of the state. These are red, clayey soils with a higher acid content. Ultisol soils are commonly found in gulf areas. Vegetables that prefer to grow in more acidic soil, which means a soil with a pH less than 7.0, are radishes, broccoli, parsley and others.

Alifisols: The rest of the state is split between Alifisols, Inceptisols and Entisols. Alifisols are fertile soils that are excellent for crop growth.

Inceptisols: This is the most common soil across the earth, and it has decent drainage. These soils have good control over erosion



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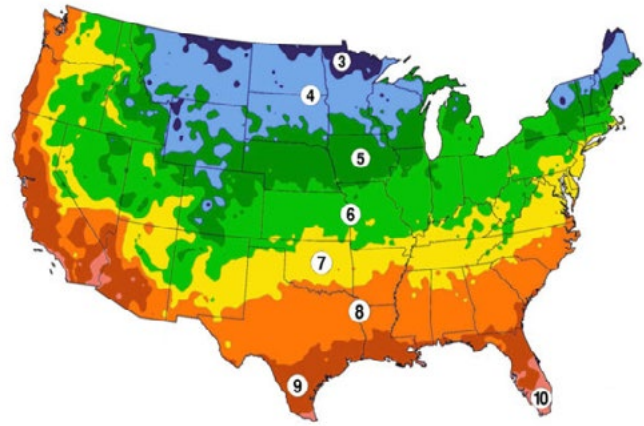
issues. These soils are not associated with a certain climate and are very common across the United States. They are more weathered than Entisols.

Entisols: 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 Maryland:

Average annual precipitation in Maryland varies depending on which part of the state the gardener resides in, with the eastern shore received between 44.1 inches in Assateague Island and 46.8 inches of precipitation a year in Royal Oak. In Central Maryland, yearly precipitation ranges from 40.3 inches a year in Rockville to 47.3 inches a year in Catoctin Mountain Park. In Western Maryland, average annual precipitation ranges from 39.3 inches a year in Hagerstown to 47.8 inches a year in Oakland.

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



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