

# URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

## Growing and Harvesting in Tennessee

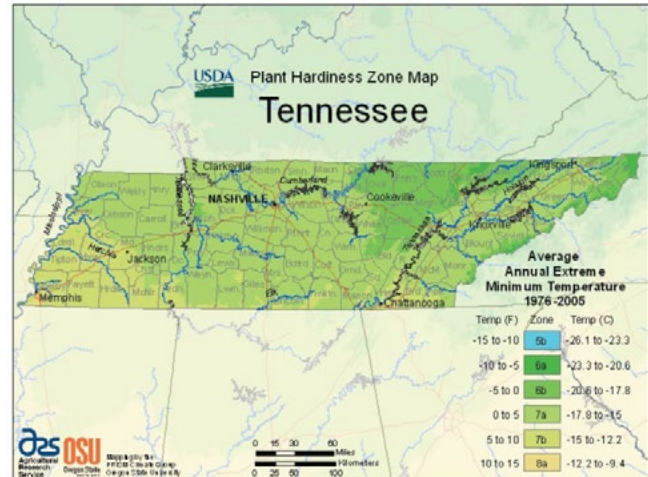
Tennessee's USDA Hardiness Zones include zones 5, 6, 7 and 8. This means Tennessee has warmer weather than the more northern states and that its fall frost dates occur later in the year and its last frost dates are earlier. First frost dates are as early as early October in Union City and as late as late October in Memphis. Last frost dates are as early as early April in Memphis and as late as late April in Kingsport.

### What to plant and when:

Being a warmer state, Tennessee has longer growing seasons. Follow the chart below to plant the right vegetables at the right times.

#### Zone 5:

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



[Tennessee Planting Calendar on ufseeds.com](#)

#### 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.



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- **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, 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, 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



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- indoors.
- **May:** Transplant Brussels sprouts, corn and cucumbers outdoors.
- **June:** Transplant beans and squash outdoors.
- **August:** Begin beets, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, kale and lettuce indoors.
- **September:** Transplant beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflowers, kale and lettuce outdoors. Begin peas and spinach indoors.
- **October:** Transplant peas and spinach outdoors.

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

Tennessee has several different dominant soil orders throughout the state, and it also has a slight amount of rock.

**Ultisols:** These soils take up much of central and central eastern Tennessee. These are red, clayey soils with a higher acid content. They can be amended, or plant vegetables or fruits with a preference for soil with an acidic pH in these soils.



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**Entisols:** These soils are only present briefly along the western border. 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.

**Alfisols:** These soils take up the western half of Tennessee. Alfisols are fertile soils that are excellent for crop growth.

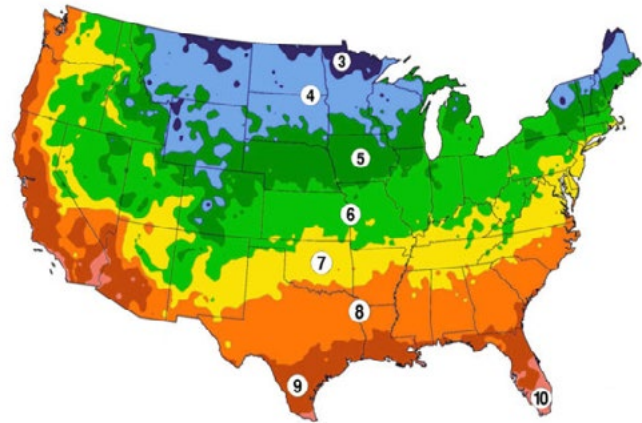
**Inceptisols:** There is a small smattering of the soils along the eastern border. This is the most common soil across the earth, and they have decent drainage.

**Rock:** The rock in Tennessee is present in very small amounts in the center of the state.

## Average rainfall in Tennessee:

Tennessee experiences a little bit more rainfall than average for other states. In eastern Tennessee, average annual precipitation varies from 41 inches a year in Bristol to 55.8 inches a year in Mousetail Landing Park. In middle Tennessee, average annual precipitation ranges from 47.3 inches a year in Nashville to 62.7 inches a year in Monteagle. In western Tennessee, average annual precipitation ranges from 51 inches a year in Dyersburg to 58.2 inches a year in Savannah.

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