

# URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

## Growing and Harvesting in Pennsylvania

Different parts of Pennsylvania reside in different USDA Hardiness Zones. The state encompasses three different zones – zones 5 through 7. Zones are cooler, typically in Zone 5, in the northern and northwestern parts of the state. Zones progress to 6 and 7 the further south in the state. First frost dates in the state can be as early as mid-September in Ridgway and as late as late October in Philadelphia. Last frost dates are as late as early June in Ridgway and as early as mid-April in Philadelphia.



### What to plant and when:

Pennsylvania may be in the northeastern portion of the United States, but it has three separate growing zones and isn't too plagued by the cold. Pay attention on what to plant and when so you can do the best possible job at growing your vegetables in the right season.

#### 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, cucumber 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.

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

- **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



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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, onions, peppers, spinach and tomatoes 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.

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

The unofficial state soil for Pennsylvania is Hazleton, which occurs in more than half of the counties in the state. Oftentimes, Hazleton is found where cropland, woodland, hay and pastureland are.

Pennsylvania has four dominant soil orders



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throughout the state, but is largely split between two of the dominant soil orders. If you are unsure which soil you reside near or what its qualities are, you can test it to determine its exact qualities.

**Inceptisols:** These encompass much of the northeastern portion of the state, and it stretches in a line through the middle of the state as well. This is the most common soil across the earth, and it has decent drainage.

**Ultisols:** These soils encompass a large patch in the center and northwestern portions of the state. These soils are clay and acidic rich and usually only suitable for forestry unless amended with lime and fertilizers.

**Alfisols:** These soils are along the western border of the state, as well as the southeastern portion. Alfisols are rich in aluminum and iron, and they hold lots of water.

**Entisols:** These soils are spread in small



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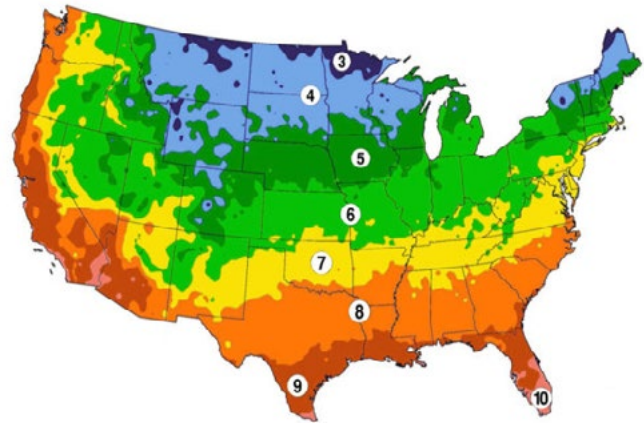
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patches throughout the state. Entisols are fertile and able to grow crops.

### Average rainfall in Pennsylvania:

Average annual precipitation – accruing in both rainfall and snowfall – can vary depending on which half of the state you reside in. This is important to know so you can ensure your crops receive adequate amounts of water during their growing season. On the eastern half of the state, average annual precipitation varies from 35.7 inches a year in Towanda to 48.4 inches a year in Norristown. In the western half of the state, average annual precipitation ranges from 35.6 inches a year in Altoona to 48.6 inches a year in Bradford.

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