

URBAN FARMER

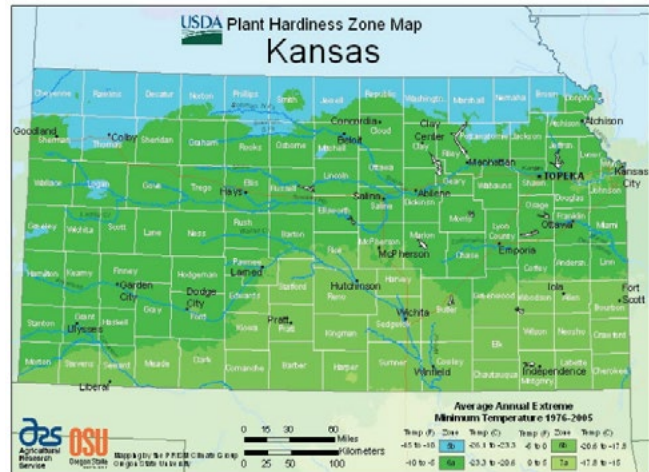
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Growing and Harvesting in Kansas

Kansas' USDA Hardiness Zones are zones 5, 6 and 7. The zones progress vertically throughout the state, with cooler zones in the northern portion of the state, zone 6 in the middle of the state and zone 7 in the southern part of the state. First frost dates are anywhere from late September to mid-October depending on the city. Last frost dates range from late April to mid-May.

What to plant and when:

Since Kansas' USDA Hardiness Zones are different, different areas of the state call for different planting schedules.



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

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, cucumber 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.

Zone 6:

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

Zone 7:

- **February:** Begin broccoli, cauliflower



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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.

Kansas' soil and how it affects agriculture:

Kansas soil is excellent in its quality, and it serves as the state's most valuable resource. Agriculture is a major industry in Kansas, and soil greatly contributes to that.

Kansas soil is mostly comprised of a topsoil that is rich and deep, which makes it favorable among farmers. The soil came to be when it evolved under prairie grasslands. Harney Silt Loam serves as the state's soil, and it spreads across most of the land in the state, covering 3,976,000 acres. It is most in west-central Kansas.

Harney Silt Loam is brown-gray in color, and it is very loamy. The topsoil can be as deep



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as 12 inches thick.

However, despite its abundance of healthy soils, Kansas topsoil is easily degraded due to wind, water and human activities. Since Kansas is so flat, wind serves as a main issue for degrading soil.

Kansas' main kind of soil is silt loam, which is what Harney Silt Loam is. The second main kind of soil in Kansas is silty clay loam. Clayey soil may be tough to work with, and create tough conditions for plants to grow their roots in. However, clayey soil is easily amended with compost or manure. Sandy soil is not very prevalent throughout Kansas, which is good for gardeners. Sandy soils don't retain water and have hardly any nutrients, which makes it tough for most vegetables to thrive.

Average rainfall in Kansas:

Average precipitation, including both rain and snow fall, varies throughout the state of Kansas. In eastern Kansas, average annual precipitation ranges from 36.5 inches a year



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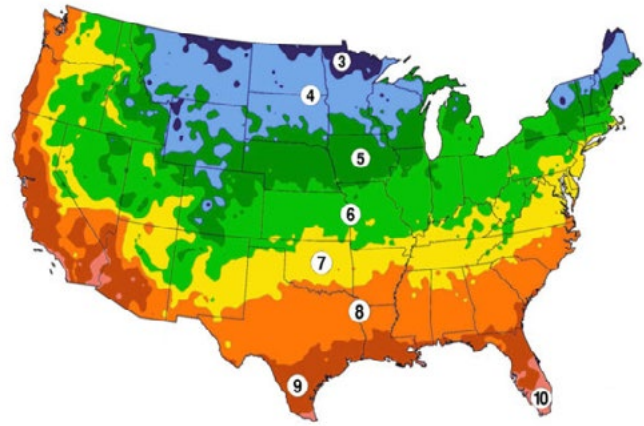
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in Topeka to 45.1 inches per year in Independence. In central Kansas, average annual precipitation ranges from 26 inches a year to 35.7 inches. In western Kansas, average annual precipitation is slightly lower than the rest of the state. It ranges from 18.3 inches a year in Elkhart to 25.8 inches a year in Keith Sebelius Reservoir.

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



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