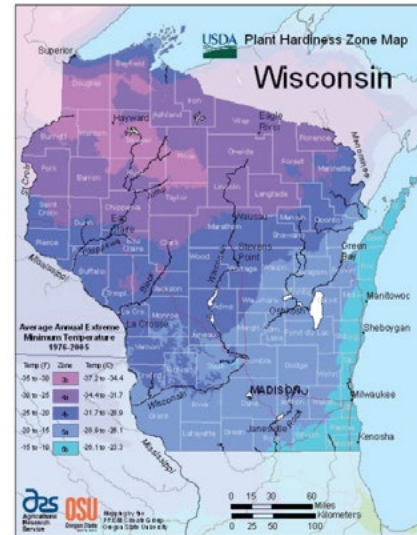


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Growing and Harvesting in Wisconsin

Wisconsin is one of the cooler states, and its USDA Hardiness Zones are lower and have a smaller range. Wisconsin ranges in USDA Hardiness Zones 3 to 5. The zones grow warmer along the eastern border of the state, which lays against Lake Michigan. The cooler portion of the state, Zone 3, is in the northwestern corner and along the Lake Superior shore. First and last frost dates can vary, and pay attention to these so you don't plant crops too early or leave them in the ground too long before harvest, where they can be damaged by the frost. First frost dates can be as early as early September in Ashland and as late as late September in Lacrosse. Last frost dates can be as early as mid-May in Lacrosse and as late as mid-June in Ashland.



Wisconsin Planting Calendar on ufseeds.com

What to plant and when:

Since Wisconsin has cooler USDA Hardiness Zones, its growth window is a bit shorter than states with warmer zones. Pay attention to the following schedule so you can learn when the best time is to plant certain crops depending on where you live within the state.

Zone 3:

- **April:** Begin tomatoes and pepper plants inside.
- **May:** Begin spinach, peas, lettuce, kale, cauliflower, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, broccoli and beets inside. Plant potatoes outside.
- **June:** Transplant tomatoes, peppers, spinach, peas, lettuce, kale, cauliflower, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, broccoli and beets outside. Begin beans, cucumbers

and carrots inside.

- **July:** Plant beans, cucumbers and carrots outside.

Zone 4:

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

Zone 5:

- **March:** Begin broccoli inside.
- **April:** Begin beets, Brussels sprouts,



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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.

Wisconsin's soil and how it affects agriculture:

Wisconsin has a similar soil profile to Michigan, as both are northern states and both border a major lake. The different soil orders will help you determine the best environment and whether or not soils should be amended when it comes to growing your crops.

Alfisols: These soils are the most common in Wisconsin, and they take up much of the state, spreading from the southern border to about three-quarters of the way up the state. Alfisols are fertile soils that are excellent for crop growth.

Histosols: These soils are splattered in small patches throughout the entire state, but they are most prevalent along the northern border. These soils are rich in organic matter.



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

Spodosols: These soils are only present in the northern portion of Wisconsin. 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.

Mollisols: These soils are present in small patches in the center and southern parts of the state. These soils are fertile and excellent for crop growth. Mollisols are darker in color than most soils.

Entisols: These soils are only prevalent in small patches, but those patches are present in several different areas of Wisconsin, ranging from the southern half to the northern 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.



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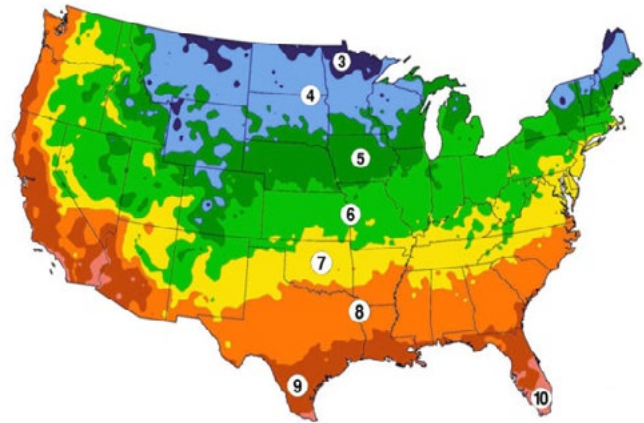
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Average rainfall in Wisconsin:

Rainfall varies depending on which part of Wisconsin you reside in. In eastern Wisconsin, average annual rainfall ranges from 28.3 inches a year in Washington Island to 36.1 inches a year in Kenosha. In southwest Wisconsin, average annual rainfall ranges from 31.9 inches a year in the Wisconsin Rapids to 36.3 inches a year in Beloit. In northern Wisconsin, average annual rainfall ranges from 29.9 inches a year in St. Croix Falls to 34.2 inches a year in Drummond. Along the Lake Superior Shore, average annual precipitation ranges from 29.9 inches a year in Ashland to 33 inches a year in Madeline Island.



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

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