

URBAN FARMER

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Growing and Harvesting in New Jersey

New Jersey is in USDA Hardiness Zones 6 and 7. Much of Zone 6 is in the northern fourth of the state, with one patch in the southern half. The rest of the state sits in Zone 7. First and last frost dates vary, and first frost dates can be as early as the first week of October in East Orange and as late as the last week of October in Camden. Last frost dates can be as early as mid-April in Camden and as late as the first week of May in East Orange. Pay attention to the zone in which you live so you can plant vegetables at the right time. On average, there are 180 days between the last and first frost dates in New Jersey.



New Jersey Planting Calendar on ufseeds.com

What to plant and when:

New Jersey only has two USDA Hardiness Zones, meaning planting times won't vary too much depending on the zone you reside in.

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.
- **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,



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- 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.

New Jersey's soil and how it affects agriculture:

New Jersey's state soil is called the Downer. The Downer is mostly common in woodland areas throughout the state. New Jersey is known as the Garden State, and soil obviously plays a huge role in that. Forty percent of the soil in the state is used for vegetable and fruit growth. The most commonly grown items are peppers, tomatoes, cabbage, apples, asparagus and sweet potatoes. However, despite New Jersey being a prime state for gardens, its state soil has some moderate limitations. The Downer soil can experience drought and must be monitored for erosion. Downer is comprised mostly of sand, but also has some silt and clay qualities. The Downer soil is usually acidic. Despite it being the Garden State, the most important source of income from agriculture within the state actually comes from greenhouses and nurseries instead of farmland.

There are four dominant soil orders in New Jersey, and they are listed below.

Alfisols: These soils are only present in the middle-eastern part of the state. Alfisols are fertile soils that are excellent for



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crop growth.

Inceptisols: Inceptisols are only in New Jersey in the northeastern part of the state. Inceptisols are the most common soil across the earth, and they have decent drainage. They can grow crops decently well.

Ultisols: These are the most common dominant soil order in New Jersey, taking up much of the southern half of the state. Ultisols are full of hard clay, and gardeners should amend the soil with lime and fertilizer to make it more usable for agriculture.

Entisols: In New Jersey, Entisols are most common along the northwestern border, near the coast. They also are in the middle of the southern half of the state. 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 New Jersey:

Average annual precipitation in New Jersey



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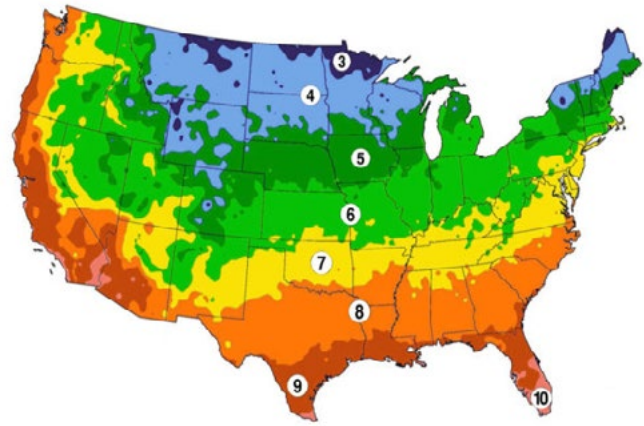
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varies in different areas of the state. In northern New Jersey, average annual precipitation ranges from 46.3 inches in Newark to 49.3 inches in Lambertville. In southern New Jersey, average annual precipitation is slightly lower, ranging from 39.5 inches in Beach Haven to 49.1 inches in Toms River.

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