# URBAN FARMER

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## **Growing and Harvesting in Oklahoma**

Oklahoma resides in three USDA Hardiness Zones – Zone 6, Zone 7 and Zone 8. Zone 6 is mostly in the northwestern region, as well as a small patch in the northeastern corner. Zone 7 encompasses much of the rest of the state with Zone 8 only in the far southeastern corner. First frost dates can begin as early as mid-October in Tulsa and as late as early November in Broken Arrow. Last frost dates can be as early as late March in Broken Arrow and as late as early April in Tulsa.

# Oklahoma | Bease | Guymon | Beaver | Woodward | End | Clarifrore | Cl

USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map

### What to plant and when:

The climate in Oklahoma changes depending on which part of the state and which USDA Hardiness Zone you reside in. Although growing vegetables, gardening and farming all are very successful in Oklahoma, be sure to follow the planting schedule to ensure your garden grows to its best ability and that weather such as early or late frosts doesn't harm the growth of your vegetables.

#### 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.

#### Oklahoma Planting Calendar on ufseeds.com

- July: Transplant beans, cabbage,
  Brussels sprouts, corn, cuucmbers 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,









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

# Oklahoma's soil and how it affects agriculture:



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Agriculture is a prime industry in Oklahoma, likely due to the fertility of the soil which is prevalent throughout the state. There are several different dominant soil orders in Oklahoma, including:

**Mollisols:** These soil orders are mostly in the west-central and northern regions of the state. These soils are fertile and excellent for crop growth. Mollisols are darker in color than most soils.

Alfisols: These soil orders mix with the Mollisols and also occupy much of the west-central and northern regions of the state, as well as the eastern border.

**Ultisols:** These soils are only along the eastern border. These are red, clayey soils with a higher acid content, meaning they will either need to be used for vegetables that prefer soil with an acidic pH or it will need to be amended.

**Inceptisols:** These soils are intermittently distributed along the









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western border of the state. Inceptisols are the most common soil across the earth, and they have decent drainage. They can grow crops decently well.

**Vertisols:** These soils are only in a small portion along the southern border of the state. These soils may have high nutrient content, but they are mostly clay, which makes them not so great for cultivation without amendments to the soil.

# Average rainfall in Oklahoma:

Average annual precipitation in Oklahoma varies depending on which region of the state you live in. In eastern Oklahoma, average annual rainfall ranges from 40.4 inches a year in Bartlesville up to 51.9 inches a year in Idabel. In central Oklahoma, average annual rainfall ranges from 32.8 inches a year in the Great Salt Plains Lake Dam to 41.8 inches a year in Ada. In western Oklahoma, average annual rainfall is the lowest, and it ranges from 18 inches a year in Kenton up to 35.9 inches a year in the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge.

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USDA Hardiness Gardening Zone Finder on ufseeds.com





