

URBAN FARMER

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Growing and Harvesting in Connecticut

Connecticut has a USDA Hardiness Zone range of zones 5 to 7. Commonly, Connecticut's last frost dates are in May, though some areas will stretch frosts into June. First frost dates in the fall season begin in September, but they can hold off until early October in some areas. Connecticut and New England areas have a shorter growing season, but if gardeners plant cool-season crops before the last frost date and follow those crops up with warm-season vegetables planted after the last frost date, Connecticut gardeners can experience a plethora of different types of vegetables.



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

What to plant and when:

Connecticut has three different USDA Hardiness Zones, which means vegetables could be planted at different times during the calendar year depending on where the garden is located within the state. Since Connecticut has a shorter growing season, warm-weather crops are still an option but you may want to research newer varieties that can reach their harvest date within a shorter timeframe. Some of the best plants to grow in Connecticut include lettuce, Cole crops like broccoli and Brussels sprouts, greens like spinach and kale, beans, root crops and other cool-season varieties. Some perennial vegetables, like asparagus, do well in northern Connecticut and can provide a yearly harvest.

Zone 5: This zone includes areas in Northwestern Connecticut, encompassing cities such as Litchfield and Winsted.

- **April:** Plant beets, broccoli, carrots, kale, peas and spinach outside. These

vegetables can be started indoors in March and transplanted outside to the garden in April. Begin tomatoes and peppers inside.

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

Zone 6: This area includes central Connecticut and stretches across the state from the west to the northeast.

- **April:** Plant beets, broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, kale, lettuce, peas and spinach outside. Begin these crops inside in March. Begin tomatoes, peppers and onions inside now.
- **May:** Begin beans, Brussels sprouts, cucumber, corn, squash and cabbage



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inside. Plant tomatoes and onions outside.

- **June:** Plant peppers outside.
- **July:** Plant beans, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, corn, cucumber and squash outside.
- **August:** Plant beets and broccoli outside. Begin carrots, kale, lettuce, peas and spinach.
- **September:** Plant carrots, kale, lettuce, pease and spinach outside.

Zone 7: This area includes a small portion of southwestern Connecticut, encompassing cities such as New Haven and Bridgeport.

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

Connecticut's soil and how it affects agriculture:

According to the teacher's institute of Yale University, Connecticut was shaped by glaciers, which cut the land into valleys and hills. This also had an impact on the type of



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soil available throughout the state. Soils in Connecticut include till, stratified drift, alluvium, loess and glaciolacustrine.

Till, also known as glacial till, is a rocky material containing sand and gravel. Stratified drift is mostly gravel. Alluvium is good to grow in, and most commonly found along streams and rivers. Loess is a deposit consisting of mostly silt and finer materials, which might make it difficult to hold water. Glaciolacustrine soil can have different layers varying in thickness, but it mostly consists of silt, clay and sand.

Much of the soil in Connecticut is unsuitable for growing crops. The best way to get around this is to build raised beds where you can add your own soil, or to amend the soil in your yard with compost, manure and other organic materials to make it more suitable for growing crops.



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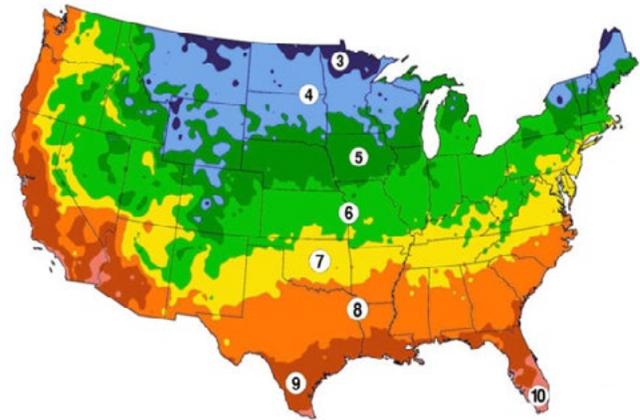
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Average rainfall in different sections of Connecticut:

In Coastal Connecticut, average annual precipitation reached as many as 54.8 inches in some places. For Inland Connecticut, rainfall stayed around an average of 50 inches per year, going as low as 45.9 inches in some areas.

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[USDA Hardiness Gardening Zone Finder](#)
[on ufseeds.com](#)



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