## URBAN FARMER

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### **Growing and Harvesting in Texas**

Texas is such a large state that there are plenty of opportunities for growth there.

Texas is a warmer state, ranging in USDA Hardiness Zones 6-9. The zones get warmer the further south you reside in the state.

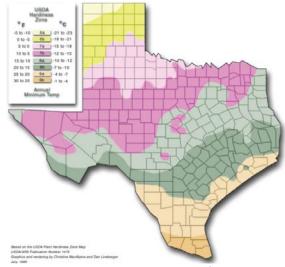
First frost dates can be as early as early November in Austin as late as mid-December in Corpus Christi. Last frost dates can be as early as early February in Corpus Christi and as late as late March in El Paso.

### What to plant and when:

Texas is a warmer state, with longer growing seasons. Follow the chart to ensure you plant the vegetables at the right time and don't risk scorching the cold-season vegetables if growing during the summer.

#### 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 onion outdoors. Begin squash, corn, cucumbers, beasn, 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



Texas Planting Calendar on ufseeds.com

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, corn, cucumbers and squash outdoors.
- July: Begin cabbage indoors.
- August: Begin beets, broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, kale, lettuce, peas









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- 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.

#### Zone 9:

- January: Begin broccoli, lettuce, onions, peas, peppers, spinach and tomatoes indoors.
- **February:** Begin beets, beans, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, corn and cucumbers indoors. Transplant beets, broccoli, cabbage, lettuce, peas and



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- spinach outdoors.
- March: Transplant cauliflower, tomatoes, peppers, onions, cucumbers, corn, carrots and beans outdoors. Begin Brussels sprouts and squash indoors.
- April: Transplant Brussels sprouts and squash outdoors.
- July: Begin peppers and tomatoes inside for a second season.
- August: Begin broccoli, corn and cucumbers inside.
- **September:** Begin beans, beets, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, lettuce and spinach indoors. Transplant peppers, tomatoes and broccoli outside.
- October: Transplant beets, beans, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, corn, cucumbers, lettuce and spinach outside.
   Begin peas and kale inside.
- November: Transplant peas and kale outside.

# Texas' soil and how it affects agriculture:

Texas has a wide array of different soil types, meaning it has plenty of opportunity









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for growth throughout the state.

Mollisols: These soils take up much of central Texas and northern Texas. These soils are fertile and excellent for crop growth. Mollisols are darker in color than most soils.

Aridisols: These soils are only present along Texas' western border. These are dry, desert-like soils without much organic content.

**Inceptisols:** These soils aren't very present in Texas, only in a small smattering in the central portion and at the southern most tip 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 stretched across the state on the eastern half. 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.

**Alifisols:** These soils take up much of the eastern half of the state. Alifisols are fertile soils that are excellent for crop growth.

**Ultisols:** These soils are only present along the eastern border of the state. 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.



USDA Hardiness Gardening Zone Finder on ufseeds.com

#### Average rainfall in Texas:

Rainfall varies in Texas depending on where you're located in the state. In north central Texas, average annual precipitation varies from 28.9 inches a year in Wichita Falls to 42.3 inches a year in McKinney. In south central Texas, average annual precipitation varies from 14.6 inches a year in Midland to 34.2 inches a year in Austin. In east Texas, average annual precipitation varies from 43.7 inches a year in Lake Fork to 59.8 inches a year in Sam Rayburn Lake Dam. In the gulf coast, average annual precipitation varies from 22.2 inches a year in McAllen to 60.4 inches a year in Beaumont. In west Texas, average annual precipitation varies from 9.7 inches a year in El Paso to 24.8 inches a year in Abilene.

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