URBAN FARMER

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Growing and Harvesting in Minnesota

Minnesota Minnesota is a state on the lower side of the USDA Hardiness Zones, ranging from Zone 3 to Zone 5. Zones progress south, with Zone 3 at the northern part of the state and shifting into Zone 4 for the majority of the south part of the state. Zone 5 is only present in the middle, southern part of the state in a very small area. First frost dates begin as early as early September in Duluth to early October in Eagan. Last frost dates are as late as early June in Duluth and as early as late April in Eagan.

What to plant and when:

Minnesota is a bit cooler, with colder weather lasting longer and starting earlier, so be sure to pay attention to which zone you reside in so you plant vegetables at the right time.

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 beats outside. Begin beans, cucumbers and carrots inside.
- July: Plant beans, cucumber and carrots outside.

Zone 4:

 April: Begin beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, kale, onions, peas,



Minnesota Planting Calendar on ufseeds.com

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, squash and cucumbers inside.
- July: Plant beans, corn, cucumber and squash outside. Begin beets, broccoli, carrots, lettuce and spinach inside.
- **August:** Plant beets, broccoli, carrots, kale, lettuce and spinach inside.

Zone 5:

- March: Begin broccoli inside. Plant potatoes outside.
- April: Plant broccoli outside. Begin beets, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, kale, lettuce, onions, peas, peppers, spinach and tomatoes inside. Near the end of the month, plant carrots, kale, peas and spinach outside.









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

Minnesota's soil and how it affects agriculture:

Minnesota has several dominant soil orders present throughout the state. The state's soil is the Lester soil, which is loamy and well-drained. The Lester soil is present in the central and southcentral Minnesota.

Alfisols: These soil orders are heavily present on the eastern half of the state. Alifisols are fertile soils that are excellent for crop growth.

Entisols: These soil orders are spatter across the middle of the northern half of the state, and they brush along the middle portion of the eastern 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.

Histosols: These soil orders are largely in the northeastern corner of the state. These soils are rich in organic matter.

Inceptisols: These soil orders are predominantly in the northeastern tip of the state. Inceptisols are the most common



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soil across the earth, and they have decent drainage. They can grow crops decently well.

Mollisols: These soil orders are along the entire western border, as well as largely along the majority of the southern border. These soils are fertile and excellent for crop growth. Mollisols are darker in color than most soils.

Spodosols: These soil orders are barely in the middle part of the eastern border of the state. 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.

Vertisols: These soil orders are on the far upper western border of the state. These soils may have high nutrient content, but they are mostly clay, which makes them not so









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great for cultivation without amendments to the soil.

Average rainfall in Minnesota:

Being a more northern state, Minnesota gets its average annual precipitation from both snow and rainfall. In southern Minnesota, average annual precipitation varies from 27.5 inches a year in Redwood Falls to 35.1 inches a year in Winona. In northeastern Minnesota, average annual precipitation varies from 24.2 inches a year in International Falls to 32.5 inches a year in Wild River State Park. In northwestern Minnesota, average annual precipitation ranges from 23.1 inches a year in Agassiz Wildlife Refuge to 28.4 inches a year in Brainerd.

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USDA Hardiness Gardening Zone Finder on ufseeds.com





