

URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

Growing and Harvesting in West Virginia

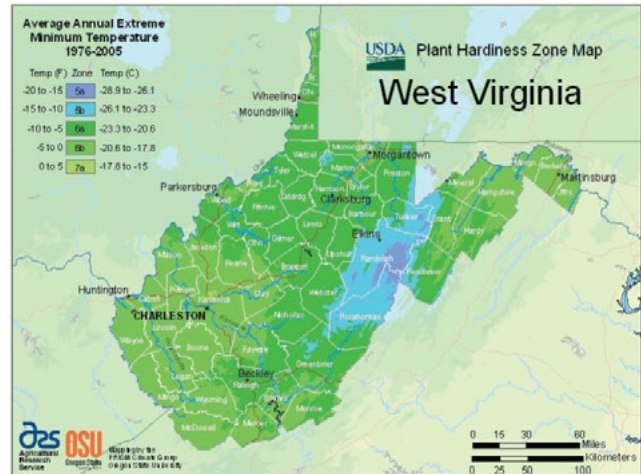
West Virginia has a similar climate to Virginia, but its USDA Hardiness Zones are slightly more limited, only ranging from Zones 5 to 7 compared to Virginia's Zones 5 to 8. West Virginia is mostly in Zone 6, and its zones don't progress in a definitive pattern throughout the state. Zone 7 comprises much of the southwestern corner, Zone 6 takes up a big chunk in the middle of the state, and Zone 5 is present in a small strip east of the center of the state. First frost dates can be as early as mid-September in Buckhannon and as late as mid-October in Wheeling. Last frost dates can be as early as early May in Wheeling and as late as early June in Elkins.

What to plant and when:

West Virginia has a smaller range in its USDA Hardiness Zones than some states, but the planting schedule should still be followed to ensure the best growth possible for your crops.

Zone 5:

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



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

outside. Begin beets, broccoli, kale, lettuce, peas and spinach inside.

- **August:** Plant beets, broccoli, kale, lettuce, peas and spinach outside. Begin carrots inside.
- **September:** Plant carrots outside.

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



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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 tomatoes 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 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.

West Virginia's soil and how it affects agriculture:

West Virginia has three main soil types within the state. Knowing about these soil types and knowing which type is present where you live will help you better prepare your garden to provide the best environment



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possible for your crops.

Alfisols: These soils are only present in a small line along the western border, and also a few miniscule patches along the western border. Alfisols are fertile soils that are excellent for crop growth.

Inceptisols: These soils are prevalent along the southwestern border of the state, as well as spread in a thin line along the eastern border, as well. 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 the state of West Virginia, and they encompass much of the center of the state. These soils stretch from the southern border to the northern 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.



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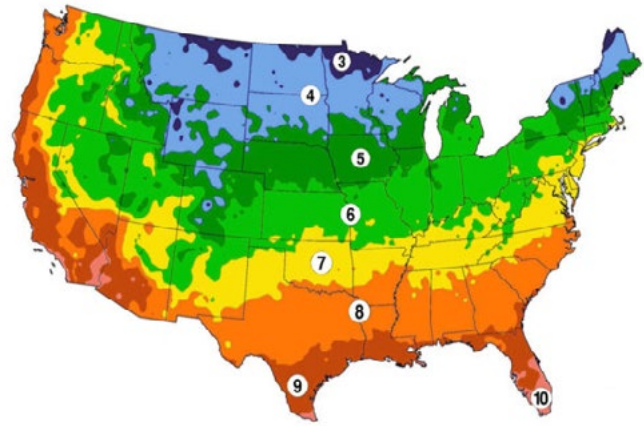
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Average rainfall in West Virginia:

Rainfall is about the same across the state of West Virginia, some areas just have a wider range than others. In eastern West Virginia, average annual rainfall ranges from 35.7 inches a year in Wardensville to 55.8 inches a year in Canaan Valley Park. In southern West Virginia, average annual rainfall varies from 39.3 inches a year in White Sulphur Springs to 47.9 inches a year in Summersville Lake. In northwest West Virginia, average annual rainfall ranges from 40.4 inches a year in Wheeling to 49.2 inches a year in Sutton Lake.



[USDA Hardiness Gardening Zone Finder](#)
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