

URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

Growing and Harvesting in New Mexico

New Mexico has a wide range of USDA Hardiness Zones, ranging from Zone 4 to Zone 9. Its first and last frost dates differ greatly depending on which part of the state you are in. First frost dates can be as early as the first week of September in Rio Rancho and as late as the very end of October in Albuquerque. Last frost dates can be as early as mid-April in Albuquerque and as late as late June in Rio Rancho.

What to plant and when:

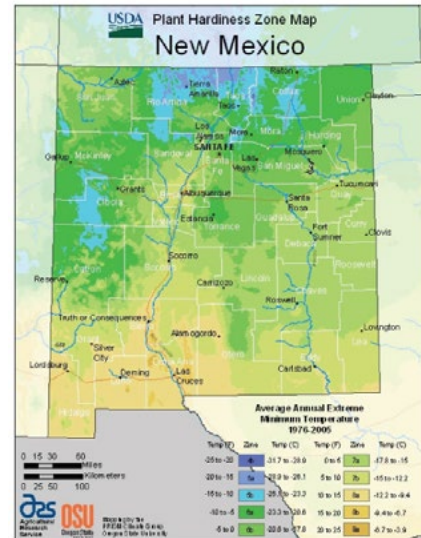
New Mexico leans on the hotter side, meaning its growing season is much longer than other states. However, it does dip down into Zone 4, which can be much cooler, so pay attention on where you reside so you plant the vegetables at the correct time.

Zone 4:

- **April:** Begin beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, kale, onions, peas, 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, kale, lettuce and spinach inside.
- **August:** Plant beets, broccoli, carrots, kale, lettuce and spinach inside.

Zone 5:

- **March:** Begin broccoli inside.
- **April:** Begin beets, Brussels sprouts,



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

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, squash 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.



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- **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 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



[Vegetable seeds and plants available at ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)

- 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,



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cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, kale and lettuce outdoors. Begin peas and spinach indoors.

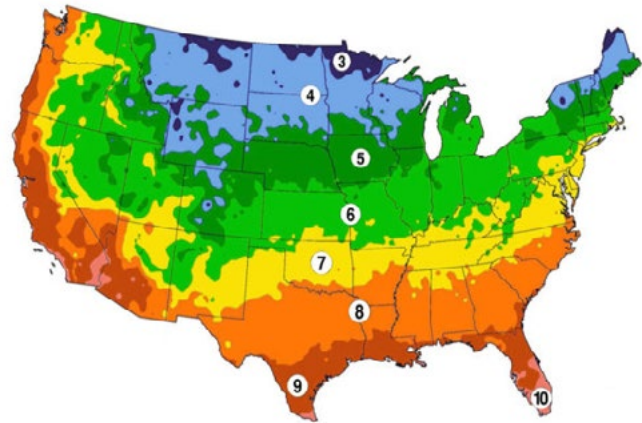
- **October:** Transplant peas and spinach outdoors.

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 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 indoors.
- **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.
- **November:** Transplant peas and kale.

New Mexico's soil and how it affects agriculture:

New Mexico has several dominant soil orders throughout the state. They include:



[USDA Hardiness Gardening Zone Finder on ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)

Aridisols: These are the most common soil in New Mexico, and they are spread across the center and southern portions of the state. These are dry, desert-like soils without much organic content.

Mollisols: These soils are in several patches across the state. These soils are fertile and excellent for crop growth. Mollisols are darker in color than most soils.

Entisols: These soils are spread throughout the state but are more common in the northwestern corner. 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.

Alfisols: These soils are mostly along the western border of the state. Alfisols are fertile soils that are excellent for crop growth.



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Inceptisols: These soils aren't very present in New Mexico, mostly in small groupings in the western half of the state. Inceptisols are the most common soil across the earth, and they have decent drainage. They can grow crops decently well.

Average rainfall in New Mexico:

Average annual precipitation varies in New Mexico depending on where you are, but for the most part, the state is drier than others. In southern New Mexico, average annual precipitation varies from 10.6 inches a year in Elephant Butte Lake Dam to 21.8 inches a year in Ruidoso. In central New Mexico, average annual precipitation varies from 9.5 inches a year in Albuquerque to 19.1 inches a year in Clovis. In northern New Mexico, average annual precipitation varies from 8.6 inches a year in Farmington to 23.9 inches a year in Lake Maloya.

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