

VEGETABLE PLANTING CALENDAR FOR MARICOPA COUNTY

Kelly Murray Young, Kai Umeda



Photo by Jeff Schallau

In Maricopa County, most any type of vegetables and fruits can be grown successfully when **appropriate varieties are selected and planted at the right time**. The climate, the season, and potential pests all impact the selection of what to plant when. Experienced gardeners and nurseries can offer advice about popular varieties of vegetables and fruits that perform well in desert conditions.

Climate: High temperatures, both day and night for extended periods of time, low humidity, and the high solar intensity can put tremendous stress on plants. In addition, some plants may not survive freezing temperatures if there is a hard winter frost. Select varieties that are tolerant of temperature extremes, plant at the appropriate times to avoid temperature extremes, or plan to protect the plants. It is possible to grow crops out of season by providing shade, more humidity, artificial heat, etc.

Seasons: We have two optimal growing seasons: one in the spring, the other in the fall. Both day length and temperature vary dramatically between seasons (short days and cold temperatures in winter to long days and extreme temperatures in summer). Since few annual plants are suited to thrive in both conditions, it is important to choose plants that mature quickly to ensure a full life cycle within one season.

Pests: Choose varieties that have been bred to be resistant to diseases and pests. These are indicated by initials following the plant variety name, for example, in tomatoes, “V” means resistant to *Verticillium* wilt disease, “N” indicates resistance to Nematodes, “F” indicates resistance to *Fusarium* wilt disease, and “T” indicates resistance to Tobacco mosaic virus. Choose a planting date to avoid known pest seasons. For example, delay fall planting until whitefly populations decline with cooler temperatures; delay spring planting until soils become warm and dry to reduce fungal and bacterial disease problems.

At a Glance

Choose varieties that:

1. mature quickly;
2. provide desirable yield, taste, texture, & color;
3. are recommended by local gardeners;
4. are adapted to climate & soils; and
5. are disease & pest resistant.

Use chart to choose planting date.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
 Maricopa County Garden Planting Calendar for Annual Fruits and Vegetables

Fruit • Vegetable	Time to Harvest	Jan.		Feb.		March		April		May		June		July		August		Sept.		Oct.		Nov.		Dec.	
		1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15
Artichokes, Globe	4-6 months		T	T	T	T	T																		
Artichokes, Jerusalem	6-8 months		T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T												S	S	S
Asparagus	1-2 years	T	T																				T	T	T
Basil	T = 30 S = 60-75 days			S	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS														
Beans, Lima	60-100 days						S	S	S																
Beans, Pinto	60-90 days											S													
Beans, Snap	60-90 days						S	S	S					S	S	S	S	S	S						
Beans, Yardlong	60-90days						S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S										
Beets	60-80 days	S	S	S	S	S	S												S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Blackeyed Peas	90-120 days								S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S							
Bok Choy	45 days	S	S	S	S													S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Broccoli	T=90-100 S=120-130 days	TS	T														S	S	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS
Brussel Sprouts	T=100-120 S=130-150 days																S	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS
Cabbage	T=80-90 S=120-130 days	TS	T														S	S	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS
Cabbage, Chinese	T=45 S=70-80 days	TS	T														S	S	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS
Carrots	60-100 days	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S						S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Cauliflower	T=90-100 S=120-130 days	TS	T														S	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS
Celery	120-150 days																		S	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS
Chard	60-90 days	TS	TS	T															S	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS
Collard Greens	80 days	S	S	S	S														S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Corn, Sweet	70-90 days				S	S	S	S	S					S	S	S	S	S							
Cucumbers	60-90 days				S	S	S	S	S								S	S							
Cucumbers, Armenian	55 days				S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S										
Eggplant	70-120 days						T	T																	
Endive	80-120 days	S	S																S	S	S	S	S	S	S

S = Seeds T = Transplants X = Sets of Cloves

Fruit • Vegetable	Time to Harvest	Jan.		Feb.		March		April		May		June		July		August		Sept.		Oct.		Nov.		Dec.	
		1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15
Garlic	5-7 months																				X	X			
Kale	60-90 days																S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
Kohlrabi	T=45-60 S=50-60 days	T	T													S	S	S	S	S	TS	TS	TS	T	
Lettuce, Head	50-100 days	TS	TS	T												S	S	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS	
Lettuce, Leaf	50-90 days	TS	TS	TS	T											S	S	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS	
Leek	180-200 days	S	S													S	S	S	S	S					
Melons, Cantaloupe	80-120 days			S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S										
Melons, Watermelon	90-120 days			S	S	S	S																		
Mustard	35-45 days	S	S	S												S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
Okra	70-100 days							S	S	S	S														
Onions, Bulb	Sets=4-5 months S=7-8 months	X	X																		S	S	S	X	
Onions, Green	90-100 days	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S							S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
Onions, Shallots	80 - 110 days											X	X												
Parsnips	100-120 days																				S	S	S	S	
Peanuts	5 months							S	S																
Peas	Sept.=60-120 Nov.=120-150 days	S	S	S	S																S	S	S	S	
Peppers	90-120 days				T	T	T								T	T									
Potatoes	90-120 days	S	S	S	S																				
Potatoes, Sweet	120-160 days					T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T												
Pumpkin	90-120 days					S	S							S	S	S									
Radishes	40-60 days	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S										S	S	S	S	S	S	
Rutabagas	100-120 days	S	S																S	S	S	S	S	S	
Spinach	40-90 days	S	S	S	S														S	S	S	S	S	S	
Squash, Summer	60-90 days				S	S	S	S	S								S								
Squash, Winter	90-120 days					S	S							S	S	S									
Sunflower	90-110 days			S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S												
Tomatoes	50-120 days					T	T	T																	
Turnips	90-120 days	S	S	S	S											S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	

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THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85721

KELLY MURRAY YOUNG
Assistant Agent, Horticulture

KAI UMEDA
Former Agent, Vegetable Crops

BASED UPON ORIGINAL WORK BY:
Lucy Bradley and Kai Umeda; April 1998

CONTACT:
KELLY MURRAY YOUNG
KYoung@cals.arizona.edu

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