ZONE 9 VEGETABLE CALENDAR

sow seeds indoor

tranplant seeds sown indoors

direct sow to ground

growing

harvesting

averaage last frost date

average first frost date

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

Bean
Beet
Broccoli / Cauli-flower
Brussels Sprouts
Cabbage
Canta-loupe
Carrot
Celery
Corn
Cucumber
Eggplant
Fennel Bulb
Garlic
Greens, Summer
Greens, Salad
Greens, Cooking
Melons, Water
Okra
Onion
Peas
Peanut
Peppers
Potato
Pumpkin
Radish
Southern Peas
Squash, Summer
Squash, Winter
Sweet Potato
Tomato
Turnip

indoor sowing seeds

transplant seeds sown indoors

During this phase, small plants – those you've started from seed or those you've purchased – may be transplanted into your

direct sowing to ground

During this phase, seeds may be planted directly

During this phase, you may plant seeds anytime in growing trays indoors

of those you've purchased – may be transplanted into your outdoor garden plot, raised beds or containers. Before planting, be sure the spot will have at least 4-6 hours of full sun every day.

into beds or containers. Most seedlings will emerge between 5 days and 2 weeks after planting.

growing

During this phase, plants begin actively growing. Consistent watering, weeding and thinning will encourage hardiness. Some types of plants, such as peppers and tomatoes, will continue to grow as you harvest. Perennial herbs, greens and lettuces will also keep growing if just a few leaves are picked at a time.

harvesting

During this phase, the plants have reached maturity and can be harvested. Seed packets will indicate the estimated number of days until the plant reaches its peak, but keep in mind that your climate, the amount of sun exposure, level of moisture and night temperatures will all affect a plant's path to maturity. Harvest vegetables just before preparing and serving to retain their ideal flavor and texture.

frost limit dates

The blue vertical lines in November and February show the average first and last frost dates. The dotted pattern defines the limits of historical frost dates

The calendar was produced using several years of data from vegetable gardens in west Pasco County Florida (Zone 9a). Additional information was obtained from other local growers and numerous horticultural sources. It should be noted that even in one county the growing conditions can vary considerably. The frost free dates are critical for many vegetables and the biggest variable in zone 9. The southwest corner of Pasco county is frost free most years. Many other spots, especially inland from the Gulf, experiecnce some frost days most years and severe freezes in many. The ranges for the different vegetables are averages. Individuals are encourged to adjust the bars according to their specific locale.

Seed starting dates: All planting dates are optimal. Seeds started in winter indoors using grow lights or a greenhouse may be started earlier than indicated. Cool weather vegetable seeds started indoors during the summer need lower soil temperatures to germinate than available outdoors. Most vegetables in this category will germinate in an air conditioned room with temperatures under 80º. The date seeds can be sown directly into the ground will vary year to year. Most plant seedling are frost sensitive even if the more mature plant is cold tolerant.

Succession planting: Plant small amounts of a particular vegetable every 3 to 4 weeks throughout it's planting phase. The availability of rapidly maturing vegetables like lettuce and salad greens, carrots, radishes, summer squash, peas and beans will be increased if this practice is followed.

Experiment with different types and varieties of vegetable to find out what grows best in your garden. Talk with other local vegetable growers to see what works in your neighborhood.

Keep records: Recording planting and harvesting dates will assist in making the right decisions in future years. Field tag each planting with type and date to remember what was planted.

Growing organically is frendly to the environment. Vegetables grown naturally with minimal or no use of chemicals taste better. The absence of pesticides will encourge natural predators such as birds, wasps and lizards to frequent your garden. The use of compost and mulch will increase soil moisture retention and reduce the frequency of watering.

Excellent Book: Vegetable Gardening in Florida by James M. Stephens

The following chart lists varieties and notes for some vegetables

	COOL WEATHER	WARM WEATHER	VARIETIES/NOTES
Bean	X	X	Asian long beans will produce longer during hot weather
Beet	X		
Broccoli	X		Side sprouting varieties will extend productivity. Calabrase and Arcadia are excellent choices.
Brussels Sprouts	X		
Cabbage	X		Small head varieties will mature faster and are better suited for family use.
Cantaloupe		X	
Carrot	X		Early maturing varieties will extend the planting date in the spring.
Cauliflower	X		Very cool weather vegetable
Celery	X		14-21 seed germination time takes patience.
Corn		X	Takes a lot of garden space.
Cucumber		X	Trellised vining types produce more in less space
Eggplant		X	Thrives in hot weather
Fennel Bulb	X	X	Grows year round but produces best in cooler weather
Garlic	X		Difficult to get good bulbs. Soft neck varieties for best results.
Greens, Salad	X		
Greens, Summer		X	Callaloo, Kang Kong, Salad Mallow are some unusual greens that thrive in hot weather
Greens, Cooking	X		Varies with type. Kale and collards hold up well in moderately warm weather.
Melons, Water		X	Tolerates warm weather. Vines require room to spread. Sugar Baby excellent small melon.
Okra		X	Does best in hot weather
Onion	X	X	Many types grow year round but produce best in cool weather. Short day bulb types started in fall. Bunching onions will survive year round.
Peas	X		Plant small amounts every three weeks starting in mid/late September for havest throughout the winter. Very cool weather vegetable
Peanut		X	Best planted early to mid May for autumn havest and storage
Peppers		X	Container plants will produce fruit for several years if frost protected
Potato	X		Grows best in cooler weather. Plants are very frost sensitive. Plants will grows during warmer weather but may not produce potatoes.
Pumpkin	X	X	
Radish	X		French Breakfast are an excellent variety. Diakon will grow in warmer weather than regualr radishes
Southern Peas		X	Plant in early June for summer cover crop and autumn harvest and storage
Squash, Summer	X		Very suseptable to mildew. Start plants often and remove older plants when mildew becomes excessive. Very prolific.
Squash, Winter	X	X	Can be sucessfully grown following the planting schedule
Sweet Potato		X	Plant in May/June for late autumn harvest and winter storage
Tomato		X	Most varieties will not pollinate during hot weather, Hybrid "solar" types and cherry tomatoes will polinate at higher temperatures. Heirloom Brandywine and Peron produce excellent tomatoes
Turnip	X		