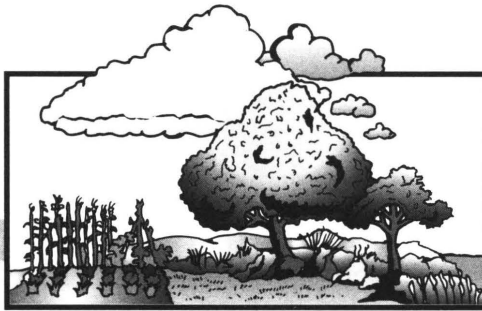


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**Virginia  
Cooperative  
Extension**

REVISED 2000



**Environmental  
Horticulture**

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**Vegetable Planting Guide and Recommended Planting Dates**

*Diane Relf and Alan McDaniel\**

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Planting Map/Guide/Dates -The Planting Area Map that follows can be used to determine the average date of last frost in your area. Actual dates will vary due to local conditions and yearly temperature fluctuations. The average date of last killing frost in the spring can be used to adapt the Recommended Planting Dates Chart to your particular area. This chart can be used to tell the approximate earliest and latest dates for a spring planting of each crop and the average length of harvest for each crop. This is particularly important in making maximum use of garden space by following one crop with another as soon as the first harvest is complete.

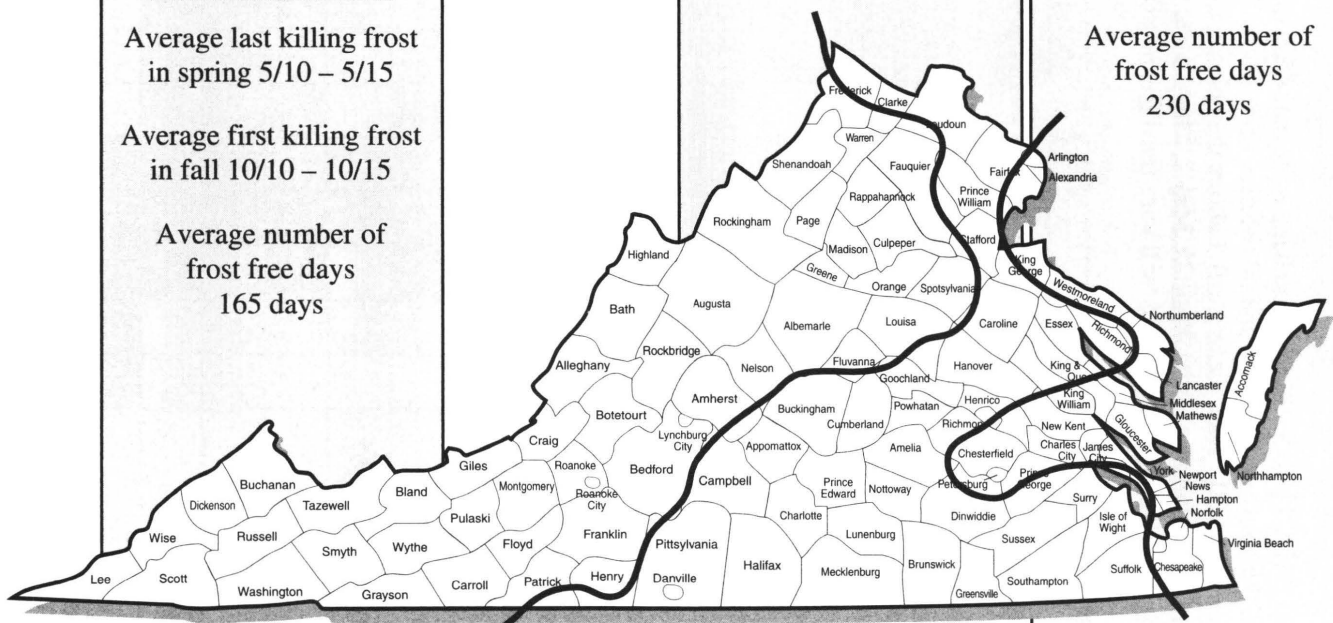
Frost Dates - The planting date for vegetables depends on the hardiness of the particular crop. Most planting directions are based on the average frost date. Average Frost Date refers to the expected dates of the last frost in the spring and first frost in the fall for a geographic location. The difference between the two average frost dates determines the average number of frost free days for crop production.

The Vegetable Planting Guide can be used to determine the approximate proper amount of crop to plant for the desired yield, the amount of seed or transplants required for that amount of crop, and proper spacing between plants in a row. In intensive, raised-bed gardens, use the in-row figures between all plants; i.e., use equidistant spacing between plants. Sow seeds to a depth three to five times the diameter of the seed. For mid-summer plantings, sow up to twice this depth.

**Mountain Area**  
Average last killing frost in spring 5/10 – 5/15  
Average first killing frost in fall 10/10 – 10/15  
Average number of frost free days 165 days

**Piedmont Area**  
Average last killing frost in spring 4/20 – 4/30  
Average first killing frost in fall 10/19 – 10/29  
Average number of frost free days 182 days

**Tidewater Area**  
Average last killing frost in spring 4/10 – 4/21  
Average first killing frost in fall 11/8 – 11/28  
Average number of frost free days 230 days



\*Extension Specialists, Horticulture, Virginia Tech



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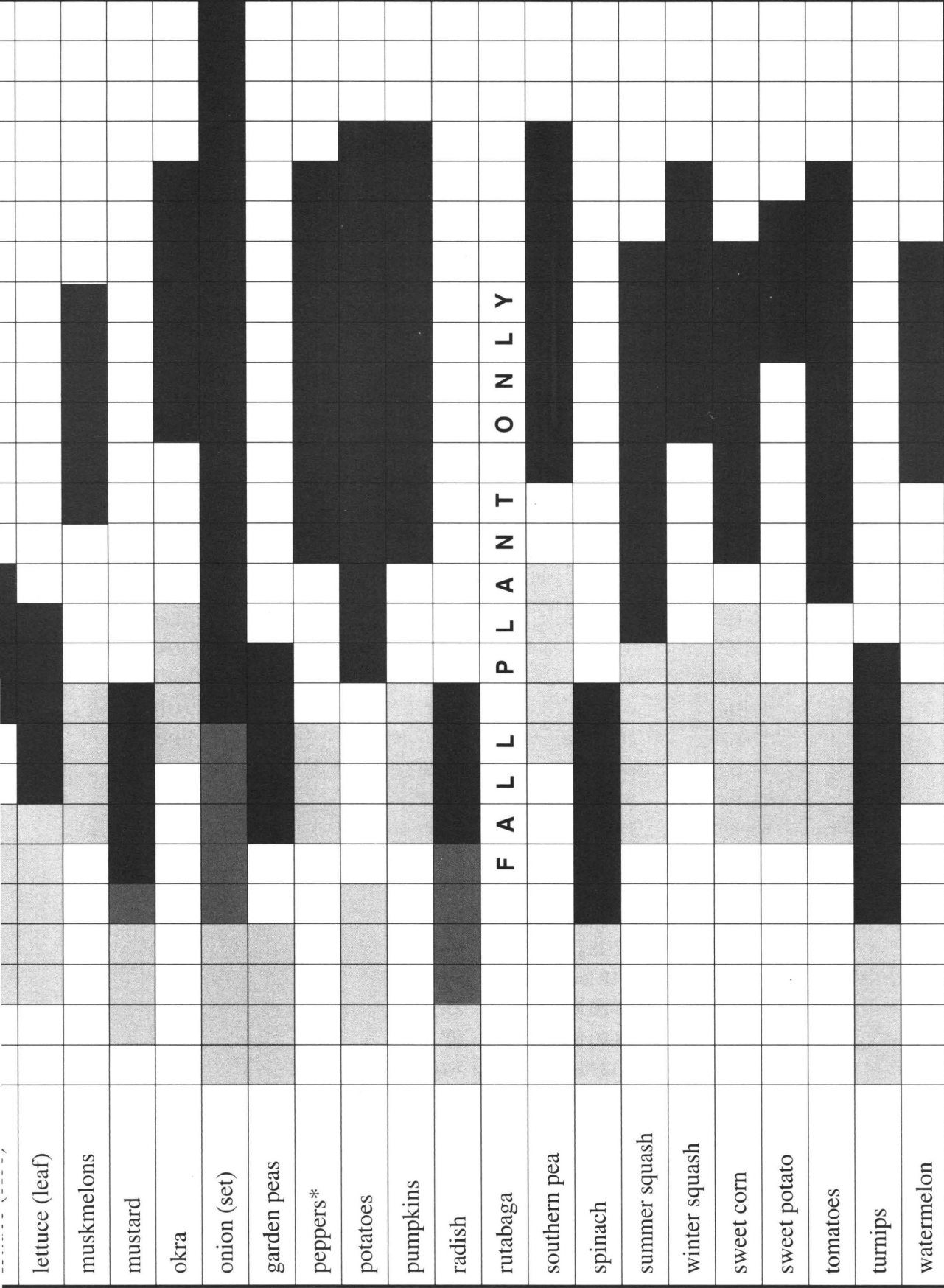
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 Planting Period
 Plant and Harvest
 Harvest Period

\* Transplants

+ Use Special Two-Season Varieties Only

## VEGETABLE PLANTING GUIDE

Crop	Planting Distance in Feet or Inches		Approximate yield per 10' of row	Approximate no. of row feet to plant per person	Transplants or seed required per 10' of row	
	In Rows	Between Rows			No. of Plants	Amount of Seed
Asparagus	18"	48-60"	3-4 lbs.	15-20'	7-8 crowns	
Beans, bush	1-2"	24-30"	3-5 lbs.	20-50'		1 oz.
Beans, pole	4-12"	36-48"	6-10 lbs.	10-30'		1 oz.
Beans, lima	3-4"	24-36"	3-5 lbs.	20-30'		1 oz.
Beans, wax	2"	24-36"	3-5 lbs.	20-50'		1/8 oz.
Beets	2-3"	12-24"	8-10 lbs.	10'		1/8 oz.
Broccoli	15-24"	24-36"	4-6 lbs.	10-20'	5-8 or	1/10 oz.
Brussels Sprouts	18-24"	30-36"	3-4 lbs.	10'	5-7 or	1/10 oz.
Cabbage	15-18"	30-36"	10-25 lbs.	10-15'	5-8 or	1/10 oz.
Chinese Cabbage	12-24"	18-30"	20-30 lbs.	10-15'	8-12 or	1/5 oz.
Carrots	1-2"	15-30"	7-10 lbs.	10-20'		1/5 oz.
Cauliflower	14-24"	24-36"	8-10 lbs.	10-15'	5-8 or	1/10 oz.
Chard, Swiss	6-12"	18-30"	8-12 lbs.	5-10'		1/5 oz.
Collards	18-24"	24-36"	8-15 lbs.	10-15'	5-7 or	1/10 oz.
Cucumbers	12-18"	48-72"	8-10 lbs.	15-20'		1/10 oz.
Eggplant	18-24"	30-42"	10-12 lbs.	3-6'	5-7 or	1/40 oz.
Endive	9-12"	18-30"	3-6 lbs.	5-10'	5-10 or	1/40 oz.
Kale	10-18"	18-36"	4-8 lbs.	10-15'	6-10 or	1/10 oz.
Kohlrabi	4-6"	12-36"	4-8 lbs.	5-10'		1/10 oz.
Leeks	3-6"	12-30"	10-20 lbs.	3-6'		1/10 oz.
Lettuce (Bibb)	6-10"	14-24"	4-8 lbs.	15-20'		1/40 oz.
Lettuce (leaf)	4-6"	12-18"	5-10 lbs.	10-15'		1/40 oz.
Muskmelons	24-36"	60-90"	15-25 lbs.	8-12'	3-5 or	1/8 oz.
Mustard	3-4"	18-30"	3-6 lbs.	5-10'		1/10 oz.
Okra	12-18"	36-48"	5-10 lbs.	5-10'	7-10 or	1/5 oz.
Onions (sets)	2-4"	12-24"	7-10 lbs.	15-25'	30-60 or	1 lb.
Peas (English)	1-3"	12-30"	2-6 lbs.	40-60'		1/2 oz.
Peppers	18-24"	30-36"	5-18 lbs.	5-10'	5-7	NA
Potatoes, Irish	10-21"	24-36"	10-20 lbs.	75-100'		1 lb.
Pumpkins	4-7'	6-8'	10-20 lbs.	10'		1/20 oz.
Rutabaga	3-6"	15-30"	8-12 lbs.	5-10'		1/8 oz.
Southern Peas	2-4"	24-30"	5-18 lbs.	25-30'		1 oz.
Sweet Corn	9-12"	24-36"	7-10 lbs.	40-60'		1/2 oz.
Spinach	3-6"	15-30"	4-6 lbs.	30-40'		1/8 oz.
Squash, summer	24-36"	36-60"	20-80 lbs.	5-10'		1/10 oz.
Squash, winter	3-7'	3-10'	10-80 lbs.	10'		1/10 oz.
Sweet Potatoes	12-18"	36-48"	8-12 lbs.	75-100'	7-10	NA
Tomatoes	18-36"	36"	15-45 lbs.	10-15'	3-7	NA
Turnips	2-3"	12-24"	8-12 lbs.	10'		1/8 oz.
Watermelons	6-8'	7-10'	8-40 lbs.	10-15'	1-2 or	1/2 oz.