

FALL COOL SEASON VEGETABLES

"The Third Vegetable Growing Season for North Central Illinois"

As with Spring cool season and Summer season vegetables, timing is very important. We can take advantage of warm soil temperatures in August knowing that cooler days and cooler nights will begin in September and will continue this trend through October into November. In this way we have good plant development, increased flavor and sweetness in our Fall vegetables.

Below is a guide to help determine not only which Fall vegetables will perform well, but also the appropriate timing for planting and days to maturity for Fall cool season vegetables - both seeds and started plants.

I. Starting From Seeds - Which Vegetables For Fall

The warm soils of mid-August until mid-September are perfect for Fall cool season plants from seed. Warm soil equals quick germination and allows time for plants to mature during the Fall season.

Vegetable	Planting Dates	Days to Maturity	Hardiness
Beets	August 15 - September 1	52 Days	Half Hardy
Broccoli	August 1 - August 20	80 Days	Half Hardy
Carrots	August 1 - August 15	70 - 80 Days	Half Hardy
Collards	August 1 - August 15	80 Days	Half Hardy
Endive	August 1 - August 15	85 Days	Half Hardy
Kale	August 1 - August 15	55 - 75 Days	Hardy
Lettuces (leaf)	August 1 - September 1	30 Days	Half Hardy
Mustard	August 5 - September 1	90 Days	Half Hardy
Peas	August 1 - August 21	60 - 70 Days	Half Hardy
Radish	August 15 - September 1	20 - 40 Days	Half Hardy
Spinach	August 30 - September 15	20 - 40 Days	Hardy
Swiss Chard	August 1 - August 15	55 - 60 Days	Half Hardy

II. Started Plants - Which Vegetables For Fall

We often experience greater success (particularly new gardeners) when planting certain started vegetables. Fall season vegetables from started plants means fewer days to maturity (subtract 7 - 14 days from plants listed above) and are vegetables which are easier to achieve overall success.

Vegetables	Planting Dates	Hardiness
Broccoli	August 10 - September 10	Half Hardy
Brussel Sprts.	August 1 - September 1 (80 - 90 Days to maturity)	Hardy
Cabbage	August 1 - September 1 (80 - 90 Days to maturity)	Half Hardy
Cauliflower	August 1 - September 1 (80 - 90 Days to maturity)	Half Hardy
Collards	August 1 - September 1	Half Hardy
Kale	August 1 - September 15	Hardy
Lettuce (Buttercrunch)	August 1 - September 10 (55 - 75 Days to maturity)	Hardy
Lettuce (Romaine)	August 1 - September 10 (75 - 85 Days to maturity)	Hardy
Spinach	August 30 - September 21	Hardy
Swiss Chard	August 15 - September 15	Half Hardy