

Fall Vegetable Gardening

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Although spring is traditionally thought of as the time to start a vegetable garden, many vegetables can be planted in late June, July and August for harvest in September and October. Among the vegetable which can be grown for fall harvest are peas, cabbage, lettuce and other crops which do best in cooler temperatures. Many are frost tolerant and their flavor actually improves after a light frost. This type of gardening maximized use of garden space, since new crops may be put in after early spring crops such as peas, leaf lettuce and radishes are harvested.

Vegetables to be grown for fall harvest can be seeded directly or transplanted in the garden. When buying seed for use in a fall vegetable garden, it is advisable to pick varieties which are well suited for growing in Michigan and which are quick maturing, so that the vegetables will be ready for harvest before the severe cold weather begins in November. Follow directions given on the seed packet for depth at which to plant the seed and spacing between plants and rows. Water in the seed to speed up germination. Fertilizer may not be necessary if the garden was fertilized well in the spring. However, if natural soil fertility is low, a commercial fertilizer such as 5-10-10 or similar analysis may be applied after the seedlings are rapidly growing at the rate of one cup per 25' of row length.

The following chart will enable you to plan which vegetables you would like to raise in your fall vegetable garden. Planting dates for seed are based on East Lansing and should be modified as necessary to suit your location.

VEGETABLE	SEEDING DATE	APPROXIMATE TIME OF HARVEST	SUGGESTED VARIETIES
Snap Beans	June 30 - July 15	August 20 - Sept. 15	Provider, Spartan arrow
Beets	July 1-15	Sept. 1 - Oct. 1	Ruby queen, Detroit dark red
Broccoli	June 20-30	Sept. 20 - Oct. 20	Green comet, Spartan early
Brussels sprouts	June 20-30	Oct. 15 - Nov. 1	Jade cross, Long Island improved
Cabbage	June 20-30	Oct. 1 - Oct. 30	Stonehead, Ruby ball (red), C-C cross
Cauliflower	June 20-30	Oct. 1 - Oct. 30	Self-blanche, Snowball imperial
Chinese cabbage	June 20 - July 30	Aug. 20 - Oct. 20	Early hybrid G, Springtime
Kale	June 20 - July 30	Aug. 14 - Sept. 30	Dwarf blue curled, Vates
Kohlrabi	June 20-30	Oct. 1-15	Early white vienna
Lettuce (butterhead)	July 15-30	Sept. 15 - Oct. 15	Buttercrunch
Lettuce (leaf)	July 1 - Aug. 15	Aug. 15 - Oct. 10	Salad bowl, Grand rapids
Peas	July 15 - July 30	Sept. 15 - Oct. 10	Freezonian, Greater progress, Dwarf gray sugar (edible pod)
Radishes	Aug. 1 - Sept. 1	Sept. 1 - Oct. 1	Cherry belle, Champion
Spinach	July 20-30	Sept. 1-20	America, Viking
Turnips	July 1 - Aug. 1	Aug. 15 - Oct. 1	Tokyo cross, Just right



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