

Growing Zones, Recommended Crop Varieties, and Planting and Harvesting Information for Home Vegetable Gardens in New Mexico

George W. Dickerson, former Extension Horticulture Specialist



New Mexico can be divided into three growing zones, which are based on the average number of frost-free days and the average date for the last frost in the spring (fig. 1). Growing periods for individual gardens can vary as much as 20 days from the average for the zone. This variance may be due to elevation, site exposure or air drainage. For example, gardens with northern slope exposures are cooler than those with southern slope exposures. Also, cooler air is heavier than warmer air, so valley cropping sites are more prone to frost than sites overlooking the valley. Therefore, consider your garden's unique needs as you determine planting dates.

These crop variety recommendations (table 1) are based on variety trials conducted by the New Mexico Cooperative Extension Service and experienced Master Gardeners. Home gardeners may seek advice from these or other experienced gardeners in the area.

The number of days to harvest are seed catalogue estimates and may vary depending on weather conditions. Planting depth will depend on your soil: seed may be planted slightly deeper in sandy soils and slightly shallower in clay soils. The distance between rows depends on your watering technique (furrow, sprinkler, or drip) and the paths you leave between rows for picking.

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Table 1. Vegetable varieties, days to harvest, planting date, planting instructions, and approximate yield for home gardens.

Crop	Recommended Varieties	Days to Harvest	Planting Dates		
			Area 1	Area 2	Area 3
Asparagus	Jersey Giant	2 (yrs.)	Feb 1-March 1	March 1-April 30	April 1-30
	Mary Washington	2 (yrs.)			
	U.C. 157	2 (yrs.)			
	Jersey Knight	2 (yrs.)			
Beans, Bush	Blue Lake Bush	58	April 15-May 1;	May 1-31;	May 1-July 15;
	Contender	49	July 15-Aug 15	July 1-31	
	Blue Lake 274	58			
	Greensleeves	56			
	Kentucky Wonder 125	58			
	Tendercrop	53			
	Topcrop	49			
Beans, Bush (Wax)	Goldcrop Wax	54	April 15-May 1;	May 1-31;	May 1-July 15;
	Cherokee	50	July 15-Aug 15	July 1-31	
	Imp. Golden Wax	52			
	Sunrae	55			
Beans, Pole	Blue Lake	60	April 15-May 1	May 1-31	May 1-June 30
	Kentucky Blue	65			
	Kentucky Wonder	65			
Beans, Lima	Fordhook 242	75	April 15-Aug 1	May 1-July 15	May 15-June 15
	Baby Fordhook	70			
	Henderson Bush	65			
	Jackson Wonder	65			
Beans, Lima, Pole	Large Speckled Christmas	88	April 15-May 1	May 1-31	May 1-15
	King of Garden	88			
Beans, Other	Fava or Broadbeans	85	Jan 15-Feb 15	Feb 15-March 15	March 15-May 15
	Garbanzo or Chickpea	100	Jan 15-Feb 15	Feb 15-April 15	May 15-June 15
	Pinto, Luna	85	April 15-May 1;	May 1-31	
	Pinto, Navajo	85	July 15-Aug 15		May 1-July 15
Beets	Detroit Dark Red	60	Feb 1-March 15;	March 1-April 15;	April 1-June 30
	Early Wonder	54	July 15-Aug 15	July 15-Aug 1	
	Golden Beet	55			
	Cylindra	60			
	Ruby Queen	53			
	Perfected Detroit	58			
Broccoli	Bonanza Hybrid	55	Feb 15-March 1;	March 15-April 1;	April 15-June 1
	Green Goliath	55	July 15-Aug 1	July 1-15	
	Green Comet Hybrid	55			
	Emperior	58			
	Green Valiant	66			
	Premium Crop	58			
	Hybrid Packman	60			
Brussels Sprouts	Prince Marvel Hybrid	90	March 15-May 15	April 1-May 15	April 15-30
	Hybrid Jade Cross	82			
Cabbage	Golden Acre	64	Feb 15-March 1;	March 15-31;	April 15-June 30
	Red Acre	76	July 15-Aug 1	July 1-15	
	Early Jersey Wakefield	63			

Depth (inches)	How to Plant		Feet of Row per Person	Seed or Plants per 100 Feet of Row	Approximate Yield per 100 Feet of Row	
	Plants (inches)	Distance Between Rows (inches)			Fresh (pounds)	Canned (pints)
6-8	12-15	36-60	30	80-100 plants	60	25
1-2	2-6	18-36	80	1/2 pound	90	65
1-2	2-6	18-36	80	1/2 pound	90	65
1-2	4-8	36-48	10	1/2 pound	90	80
1-2	3-6	18-36	20	1 pound	30	40
1-2	8-12	36-48	20	1/2 pound	30	40
1-2	3-6	24-48	20	1 pound	30	40
1-2	3-4	24-30	—	1/2 pound	—	—
1-2	3-4	24-30	—	1/2 pound	—	—
1/2	2-4	12-30	10	1 ounce	80	70
1/2	8-12	26-36	25	1/2 ounce or 100-150 plants	75	—
1/2	18-24	24-40	10	1/2 ounce or 50-65 plants	60	—
1/2	12-24	24-36	6	1/2 ounce or 50-100 plants	150	—

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Table 1. Vegetable varieties, days to harvest, planting date, planting instructions, and approximate yield for home gardens (cont.).

Crop	Recommended Varieties	Days to Harvest	Planting Dates		
			Area 1	Area 2	Area 3
Cabbage, Chinese	Michihi	70	March 1-31; July 1-20	June 15-30	May 15-June 15
	Two Seasons Hybrid	62			
	Pak Choi Joi Choi Hybrid	45			
Cantaloupe (Muskmelon)	Delicious 51	84	April 1-15	April 15-30	May 1-15
	Hales Best	88			
	Ambrosia Hybrid	86			
	Luscious Plus Hybrid	75			
Carrots	Imperator	75	Jan 15-March 1; Aug 1-15	Feb 15-April 1; July 1-Aug 1	May 1-June 30
	Red Core Chantenay	70			
	Danvers Half Long	75			
	Nantes Coreless	68			
Cauliflower	Snowball (types)	65	Feb 15-March 1; June 25-July 5	March 15-31; July 1-Aug 1	May 1-30
	Snow King	50			
	Snow Crown Hybrid	53			
	Snowball Self-Blanching	70			
Chard, Swiss	Fordhook Giant	60	Feb 1-March 15; July 15-Aug 15	March 1-April 15; July 1-Aug 1	April 1-June 30
	Rhubarb	60			
	Lucullus Light Green	60			
Collards	Georgia	80	Feb 1-March 15; July 15-Aug 15	March 1-April 15; July 15-Aug 1	April 1-June 30
	Vates	80			
Corn, Sweet (regular, SU)	Merit	75	March 21-July 30	April 20-July 1	May 1-July 1
	Early Sunglow	63			
	Golden Jubilee	84			
	Iochief	89			
	Silver Queen (white)	94			
	Golden Cross Bantam	85			
Corn, Sweet (Sugary Enhancer, SE)	Kandy Korn EH	89	March 21-July 30	April 20-July 1	May 1-July 1
	Hybrid Double Delicious	83			
	Hybrid Bodacious	72			
	Miracle	82			
Corn, Sweet (Super Sweet, SH2)	Early Xtra-Sweet	71	April 1-July 30	May 1-July 1	May 15-July 1
	Illini Xtra-Sweet	85			
	How Sweet It Is	87			
	Honey-'N Pearl	78			
Cucumber, Slicing	Armenian (long, ribbed)	70	April 1-15	April 15-May 15	May 15-June 1
	Bush Champion	55			
	Hybrid Slicemaster	58			
	Hybrid Burpless	60			
	Spacemaster (bush)	54			
	Straight Eight	58			
	Streamliner	58			
	Sweet Success Hybrid	58			
	Sweet Slice Hybrid	62			

Depth (inches)	How to Plant		Feet of Row per Person	Seed or Plants per 100 Feet of Row	Approximate Yield per 100 Feet of Row	
	Plants (inches)	Rows (inches)			Fresh (pounds)	Canned (pints)
1/2	12-24	24-36	10	1/2 ounce or 50-100 plants	30	—
1/2-3/4	12	60-84	15	1 ounce	90 melons	—
1/4	1-3	16-36	30	1/2 ounce	75	—
1/2	18-24	24-36	20	1/2 ounce or 50-65 plants	50 heads	—
1/2-3/4	4-15	24-36	10	1 ounce	100	—
1/2	10-24	24-36		1/2 ounce		
1-2	8-12	30-40	120	1/2 pound	75 ears	20
1-2	8-12	30-40	120	1/2 pound	75 ears	20
1/2-1	8-12	30-40	120	1/2 pound	75 ears	20
1/2-3/4	8-12	36-72	5	1/2 ounce	180	—

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Table 1. Vegetable varieties, days to harvest, planting date, planting instructions, and approximate yield for home gardens (cont.).

Crop	Recommended Varieties	Days to Harvest	Planting Dates		
			Area 1	Area 2	Area 3
Cucumber, Pickling	National Pickling	55	April 1-15	April 15-May 15	May 15-June 1
	West India Gherkin	60			
Eggplant	Black Beauty	73	April 1-30	April 15-May 15	May 1-30
	Dusky	63			
	Easter Egg	69			
	Orient Express	58			
	Ichiban Hybrid	65			
Garlic	Spanish Roja	8-10 months	Oct 1-Nov 30	Sept 15-Nov 15	Sept 1-Oct 31
	Carpathian	8-10 months			
	Inchelium Red	8-10 months			
	California Early	8-10 months			
	Silverskin (S & H)	8-10 months			
Kohlrabi	Early Purple Vienna	60	Feb 1-March 15; July 15-Aug 15	March 1-April 15; July 1-Aug 15	April 1-June 30
	Early White Vienna	55			
	Grand Duke	45			
Leek	American Flag	130	Jan 15-Feb 15	Feb 15-March 15	March 15-April 1
	Titan	110			
Lettuce, Head	Great Lakes Strains	90	Nov 20-Jan 20	March 1-15	April 1-June 15
	Iceberg	82			
Lettuce, Leaf	Black Seeded Simpson	45	Dec 1-March 15; Aug 1-30	March 1-31; July 15-Aug 15	April 1-July 1
	Oak Leaf	50			
	Ruby	45			
	Salad Bowl	45			
	Red Sails	50			
	Prizehead	45			
Lettuce, Romaine	Paris Island Cos	75	Dec 1-March 15; Aug 1-30	March 1-31; July 15-Aug 15	April 1-July 15
	Rosalita	65			
	Valmaine Cos	70			
Lettuce, Butterhead	Bibb	75	Dec 1-March 15; Aug 1-30	March 1-31; July 15-Aug 15	April 1-July 1
	Buttercrunch	75			
Mustard	Tendergreen	35	Feb 1-March 31; Aug 1-30	March 1-April 15; Aug 1-31	April 1-July 15
Okra	Clemson Spineless	56	April 1-15	April 15-30	May 1-15
	Annie Oakley Hybrid	52			
Onions, Fall Planted	Early New Mexico Grano	9-10 months	Oct 1-15		
	Temprano Grano 502	9-10 months			
	Hybrid White Bermuda	92			
	Texas Grano 1015Y	175			
	Red Hamburger	95			
	Granex Hybrid	80			

Depth (inches)	How to Plant		Feet of Row per Person	Seed or Plants per 100 Feet of Row	Approximate Yield per 100 Feet of Row	
	Plants (inches)	Rows (inches)			Fresh (pounds)	Canned (pints)
1/2-3/4	8-12	36-72	5	1/2 ounce	90	25
1/4-1/2	18-30	24-48	5	1/4 ounce	200	—
1-3	3-6	12-36	3	1-12 pounds clove	—	—
1/2	3-6	12-36	12	1/2 ounce	100	—
1/2	3-6	12-36	10	1/2 ounce	—	—
1/4-1/2	10-15	20-36	12	1/2 ounce	50 heads	—
1/4-1/2	8-12	20-36	6	1/2 ounce	100	—
1/4-1/2	10-14	20-36		1/2 ounce	100	—
1/4-1/2	10-15	20-36		1/2 ounce	—	—
1/2	5-10	20-36	6	1-2 ounces	50	60
1	8-24	42-60	10	2 ounce	30	12-24
1/2	2-4	20-36	20	1 ounce	70	—

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Table 1. Vegetable varieties, days to harvest, planting date, planting instructions, and approximate yield for home gardens (cont.).

Crop	Recommended Varieties	Days to Harvest	Planting Dates		
			Area 1	Area 2	Area 3
Onions, Spring Planted	White, Yellow & Red Globe	110	Jan 15-Feb 15	Feb 15-March 15	March 15-April 3
	White & Yellow	80-100			
	Sweet Spanish				
	Walla Walla Sweet	115			
Parsnips	All American	100	Jan 15-March 1	Feb 15-April 15	April 1-May 15
	Hollow Crown	110			
Parsley	Italian Dark Green	72	Jan 15-March 1	Feb 15- April 15	April 1-May 5
	Plain Leaf				
	Forest Green	75			
	Paramont	70			
Peas, Snap Pea	Sugar Daddy	62	Jan 15-Feb 15	Feb 15-April 15	March 15-June 15
	Sugar Ann	56			
	Sugar Bon	56			
	Sugar Snap	70			
	Sugar Snappy	65			
Peas, Snow	Oregon Sugar Pod II	68	Jan 15-Feb 15	Feb 15-April 15	March 15-June 15
	Dwarf Gray Sugar	57			
Peas, English	Alaska	55	Jan 15-Feb 15	Feb 15-April 15	March 15-June 15
	Green Arrow	70			
	Little Marvel	63			
	Wando	68			
	Lincoln	67			
Peas, Cowpeas	California Black-Eye	75	April 14-May 1	May 1-31	May 1-July 15
	Purple Hull	78			
Peppers, Bell	Bell Boy	72	April 1-30	April 15-May 15	May 15-June 15
	Gypsy Hybrid	65			
	California Wonder	75			
Peppers, Chile	Española Improved (hot)	70	April 1-30	April 15-May 15	May 15-June 15
	Hungarian Wax (hot)	65			
	Jalapeño (hot)	80			
	Nu Mex R Naky (mild)	80			
	New Mexico 6-4 (mild)	80			
	NuMex Big Jim (mild to medium)	80			
Sandia (hot)	80				
Potato, Irish	Irish Cobbler (white)	100	Feb 1-28	April 1-May 15	May 1-31
	Kennebec (white)	105			
	La Rouge (red)	110			
	Norgold (russett)	105			
	Pontiac (red)	105			
	Viking (red)	105			
Potato, Sweet	Caromex	130	May 1-15	May 15-31	June 1
	Jewel	130			
	Oklamex Red	130			

Depth (inches)	How to Plant		Feet of Row per Person	Seed or Plants per 100 Feet of Row	Approximate Yield per 100 Feet of Row	
	Plants (inches)	Distance Between Rows (inches)			Fresh (pounds)	Canned (pints)
1/2	2-4	20-36	40	1 ounce	75	—
1/2	2-4	20-36	10	1 ounce	100	—
1/4-1/2	4-12	12-36		3/4 ounce	—	—
1	1-3	24-36	5	2 pounds	40	25
1	1-3	24-36	5	2 pounds	40	25
1	1-3	24-36	5	2 pounds	40	25
1/2-1	5-8	24-36	—	—	—	—
1/4	12-24	24-36	5	1/2 ounce	40	—
1/4	12-24	24-36	15	1/2 ounce	75	—
4	12	30-36	60	10 pounds seed pieces	75	—
(transplants)	10-18	36-48	5	65-120 plants	—	—

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Table 1. Vegetable varieties, days to harvest, planting date, planting instructions, and approximate yield for home gardens (cont.).

Crop	Recommended Varieties	Days to Harvest	Planting Dates		
			Area 1	Area 2	Area 3
Pumpkin	Big Max	120	April 1-30	May 1-15	May 15-31
	Jack-O-Lantern	110			
	New England Pie	105			
	Small Sugar	100			
	Spirit	100			
	Hybrid Autumn Gold	90			
	Jack-Be-Little	100			
	Ghost Rider	115			
Radish	Cherry Belle	22	Feb 1-March 31	March 1-April 30	April 1-July 15
	Easter Egg	25			
	French Breakfast	23			
	Sparkler	25			
	White Icicle	28			
	Champion	28			
	German Giant	29			
Spinach	America	50	Jan 15-Feb 15; Sept 1-30	Feb 15-March 15; Aug 1-30	March 15-July 15
	Longstanding (Bloomsdale)	43			
	Melody	42			
	Winter Bloomsdale	45			
	Hybrid Tyee	37			
	Hybrid Avon	44			
	Giant Nobel	43			
Spinach, Summer	New Zealand	70	March 15-April 15	April 15-May 15	May 15-June 15
Squash, Summer	Dixie (crookneck, yellow)	55	April 1-Aug 1	April 15-July 1	May 15-June 15
	Early Prolific (straightneck, yellow)	53			
	Gold Rush (zucchini, green)	45			
	Hybrid Jackpot (zucchini, green)	44			
	Black Magic (zucchini, green)	50			
	Grey Zucchini	42			
	Peter Pan (scallop)	50			
	Sunburst Hybrid (scallop)	50			
Squash, Winter	Blue Hubbard	115	April 1-June 1	April 15-May 15	May 1-15
	Buttercup	105			
	Jersey Golden	90			
	Acorn	115			
	Sweet Mama Hybrid	85			
	Table King Acorn	75			
	Table Queen Acorn	80			
	Vegetable Spaghetti	100			
	Waltham Butternut	97			
	Delicata	100			
	Ponca	90			
	Table Ace	70			
Tomatoes, Plum, Small Types	Red Cherry	72	Feb 15-March 15	April 15-30	May 1-15
	Sweet 100	70			
	Tiny Tim	55			
	Yellow Pear	70			

Depth (inches)	How to Plant		Feet of Row per Person	Seed or Plants per 100 Feet of Row	Approximate Yield per 100 Feet of Row	
	Plants (inches)	Distance Between Rows (inches)			Fresh (pounds)	Canned (pints)
1-1 1/2	36-60	72-96	5	1 ounce	150	—
1/2	1-2	12-18	6	1 ounce	100 bunches	—
1/2	2-6	12-36	15	1 ounce	50	60
1	12-18	36	10	1 ounce	60	75
1	24-48	36-60	5	2 ounces	100	—
1	36-96	72-96	10	1 ounce	40 fruits	—
1/2	18-48	36-60	60	25-65 plants or 1/2 ounce	150	110

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Table 1. Vegetable varieties, days to harvest, planting date, planting instructions, and approximate yield for home gardens (cont.).

Crop	Recommended Varieties	Days to Harvest	Planting Dates		
			Area 1	Area 2	Area 3
Tomatoes, Regular	Beefmaster VFN	80	Feb 15-March 15	April 15-30	May 1-15
	Better Boy VFN	72			
	Early Girl	54			
	Early Pick VF	68			
	Extra Early VFNT	55			
	Fantastic	65			
	Homestead 24	76			
	Delicious	77			
	Celebrity VFNT Hybrid	70			
	Super Beefsteak VFN	80			
Tomatoes, Paste	Roma VF	75	Feb 15-March 15	April 15-30	May 1-15
	Viva Italia Hybrid	80			
Turnips	Purple Top White Globe	55	Feb 1-March 15; July 20- Aug 20	March 1-April 15; July 1-Aug 15	April 1-June 30
	Hybrid Toyko Cross	35			
Watermelon	Black Diamond	90	April 1-15	April 20-May 20	May 1-15
	Charleston Gray	85			
	Crimson Sweet	80			
	Bush Sugar Baby	75			
	Sweet Favorite	80			
Melons, Other	Casaba, Golden Beauty	120	April 1-15	April 20-May 20	May 1-15
	Crenshaw, Early Hybrid	90			
	Honey Dew Type, Hybrid Early-Dew	80			
	Honey Dew Type, Venus	88			

Depth (inches)	How to Plant		Feet of Row per Person	Seed or Plants per 100 Feet of Row	Approximate Yield per 100 Feet of Row	
	Plants (inches)	Rows (inches)			Fresh (pounds)	Canned (pints)
1/2	18-48	36-60	60	25-65 plants or 1/2 ounce	150	110
1/2	18-48	36-60	60	25-65 plants or 1/2 ounce	150	110
1/2	2-6	12-36	30	3/4 ounce	100	—
1	24-36	72-96	10	1 ounce	20 fruits	—
1	24-36	72-96		1 ounce	90 melons	

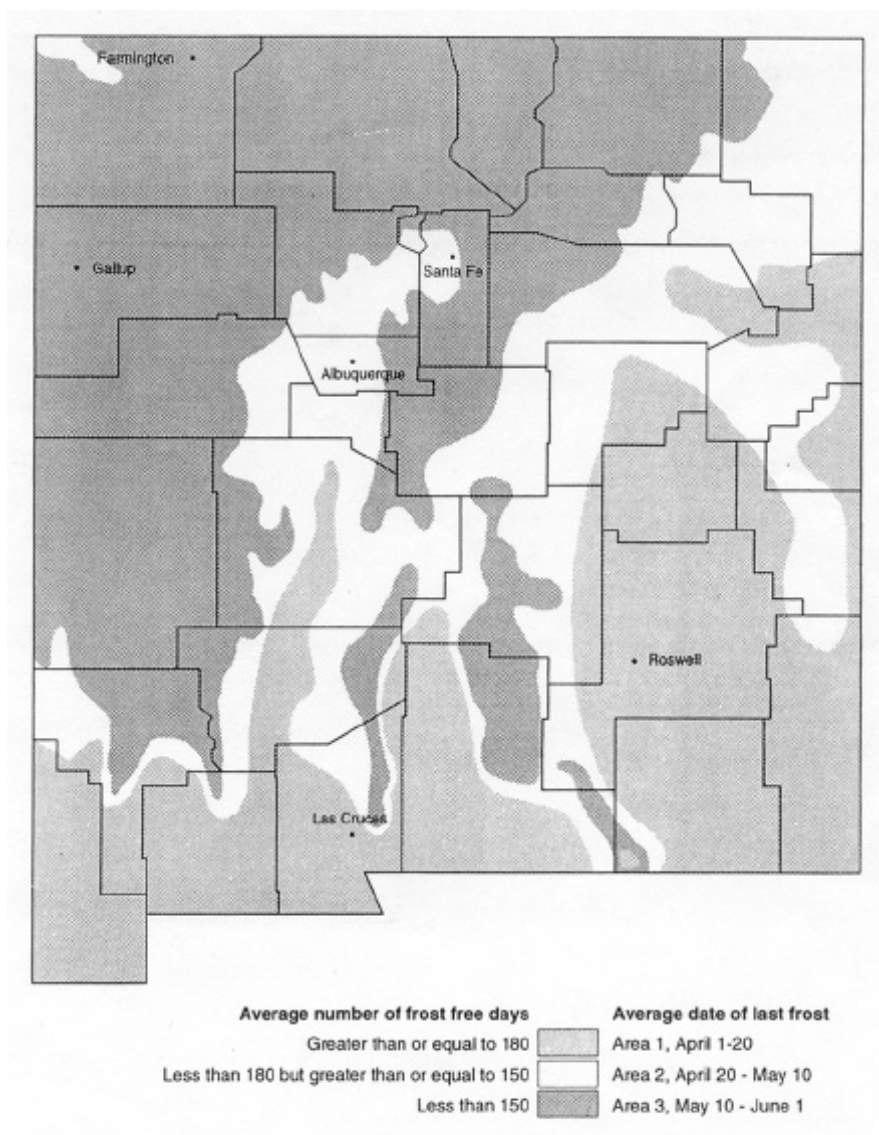


Fig.1. Average number of frost-free days and average date of last frost in three growing zones. From *Climatologist Data, Annual Summary—New Mexico, 1982*, National Weather Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Original author: James R. Sais, former Extension horticulturist.

