



METRO CREATIVE IMAGES

GARDENING

Time to start thinking about gardens

This seed starting chart is a general guideline based on our traditional Memorial Day weekend transplanting time (the holiday falls on May 29 this year). However, keep in mind that the transplant date for your particular plot may vary slightly, depending on your location, slope, and shading. And, with several recent years where May's temperatures have been exceptionally warm, more Interior gardeners are transplanting May 15 or even earlier.



Linden Staciokas

No matter when you intend to transplant, you can still use this chart. To find the right date for seed starting, locate the vegetable or flower you want to start and count back however many weeks are listed in parentheses. For example,

artichokes that will be set in the garden at the end of May should be started around March 20. If you intend to plant them outside on May 15, counting back the 10 weeks listed in parentheses will bring you to March 6th as a good seed starting date for a mid-May transplanting.

It is important to keep in mind that spring soil temperatures will be much colder than the air temperatures. You may be more than ready to stick your hands in the soil in early May, but putting transplants out too early can cause them to set back rather than flourish; the same varieties put out a week later, when the ground has warmed up more, can end up outpacing the plants that went into the garden a week earlier.

If you have not followed my urgings in previous years to develop your own seed starting chart, one designed with your gardening

conditions in mind, resolve to do so this year. You will find it far more useful in the long run than the generic charts put out by me or local nurseries. It is not difficult, nor does it take a lot of time: if at transplant time you feel a flower, vegetable or herb is smaller or larger than is optimum, note that and change this chart so that next year you remember to sow the seeds of that variety earlier or later.

Often this happens because a specific variety of a plants germinates sooner or grows faster than average; since specific transplant dates depend on averages, not every variety will perform identically. For example, one of the varieties of onions I used to start from seed sprang to life much earlier and got much taller than the other types of onions I planted, so I learned to sow them later because

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MARCH	1	2	3	4	APRIL	1	MAY	1	2	3	4	5	6		
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25		21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	26	27	28	29	30	31		28	29	30	31				

VEGETABLES

<p>March 19 (10 weeks to setting out)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Artichokes Celery Chives Cilantro Leeks Parsley Peppers (for greenhouse in mid May) Rosemary Tomato (for greenhouse in mid May) 	<p>April 9 (7 weeks to setting out)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cucumber (for greenhouse in mid May) Eggplant (for outdoor) Lemon Balm Okra Sage Savory, Summer Savory, Winter 	<p>Squash, Winter (including pumpkins)</p> <p>Swiss Chard</p>
<p>March 26 (9 weeks to setting out)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anise Hyssop Arugula Eggplant (for greenhouse in mid May) Mint Onion seeds (not sets) Peppers (for outdoors) Thyme (common, creeping & lemon) 	<p>April 16 (6 weeks to setting out)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basil Borage Brussel sprouts Dill Fennel Kale Mitsuba Oregano Sorrel 	<p>April 30 (4 weeks to setting out)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corn <p>(if you want to transplant, not direct seed)</p>
<p>April 2 (8 weeks to setting out)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bee Balm Lovage O-S Cross Cabbage Oregano Parsley (curled & flat leaf) Sweet Marjoram Tomato (outdoor) 	<p>April 23 (5 weeks to setting out)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broccoli Cabbage Cauliflower Cucumber (outdoor) Kohlrabi Lettuce, head Squash, Summer (including zucchini) 	<p>May 14 to Memorial Day (Direct seed, depending upon weather)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arugula Beans Beets Cabbage, Nabana Flowering Carrots Chervil Cilantro Corn (under plastic) Dill Fennel Kale Lettuce, Leaf Mesclun Onion Sets Parsnip Peas Potato Radish Rutabagas Spinach Swiss Chard

FLOWERS

<p>March 5 (12 weeks to setting out)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perk Up last year's Fuchsias, Hydrangeas, and Roses Geraniums Petunias for baskets Tuberous Begonias Wax Begonias
<p>March 12 (11 weeks to setting out)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dahlia tubers Fibrous Begonias Gazania Lobelia Portulaca
<p>March 19 (10 weeks to setting out)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impatiens Rhodochiton
<p>March 26 (9 weeks to setting out)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anemones Lupine Pansy (and any other members of the Viola family) Petunias Phlox Ranunculus Snapdragons
<p>April 2 (8 weeks to setting out)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ageratum (Floss Flower) Asperula Bells of Ireland Carnations Daisies Delphiniums Poppies (for early bloom) Salpiglossis (Velvet Flower, Painted Tongue) Statice Dusty Miller Feverfew Godetia Kochia Malope Malva Verbena
<p>April 9 (7 weeks to setting out)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alyssum Asarina Asters Black-eyed Susan Vine Calendula Candytuft Celosia Nemesia Nicotiana (Flowering tobacco) Potentilla Salvia Schizanthus (Butterfly flower)
<p>April 16 (6 weeks to setting out)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baby's Breath Dianthus Forget-me-nots Lavatera Linaria (Toadflax) Marigold Mimulus (Monkey Flower) Rudbeckia Strawflowers Sweet Peas Sweet William Ursina
<p>April 23 (5 weeks to setting out)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bachelor Buttons (for early bloom) Canary Bird Vine Clarkia Cosmos Gypsophila Hollyhocks Larkspur Morning Glory Nasturtiums (for early bloom) Stock Zinnas
<p>April 30 (4 weeks to setting out)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gladiola bulbs Mignonette Nemophila Scarlet Runner Beans (for early bloom) Sunflowers
<p>May 14 to 28 (2 weeks to go) Direct Seed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bachelor Buttons Nasturtiums Poppies Scarlet Runner Beans

