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Grower's Library

Seed-Starting Date Calculator

Enter spring frost-free date (include year):

mm/dd/yyyy

Date

CROP	NUMBER OF WEEKS TO START SEEDS BEFORE SETTING-OUT DATE	When to start inside		SAFE TIME TO SET OUT PLANTS (RELATIVE TO FROST-FREE DATE)	Setting-out date	
		FROM	TO		FROM	TO
Artichoke	8	17-Feb		on frost-free date	14-Apr	
Basil	6	10-Mar		1 week after	21-Apr	
Beets*	4 to 6	17-Feb	3-Mar	2 weeks before	31-Mar	
Broccoli	4 to 6	17-Feb	3-Mar	2 weeks before	31-Mar	
Cabbage	4 to 6	3-Feb	17-Mar	4 weeks before	17-Mar	14-Apr

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Cauliflower	4 to 6	17-Feb	17-Mar	2 weeks before	31-Mar	14-Apr
Celery & celeriac	10 to 12	27-Jan	10-Feb	1 week after	21-Apr	
Collards	4 to 6	3-Feb	17-Feb	4 weeks before	17-Mar	
Corn salad/mache	4 to 6	20-Jan	24-Feb	3 to 6 weeks before	3-Mar	24-Mar
Corn*	2 to 4	17-Mar	14-Apr	0 to 2 weeks after	14-Apr	28-Apr
Cucumber	3 to 4	24-Mar	7-Apr	1 to 2 weeks after	21-Apr	28-Apr
Eggplant	8 to 10	17-Feb	10-Mar	2 to 3 weeks after	28-Apr	5-May
Kale	4 to 6	3-Feb	17-Feb	4 weeks before	17-Mar	
Kohlrabi*	4 to 6	3-Feb	17-Feb	4 weeks before	17-Mar	
Leeks	8 to 10	20-Jan	3-Feb	2 weeks before	31-Mar	
Lettuce	4 to 5	10-Feb	24-Feb	3 to 4 weeks before	17-Mar	24-Mar
Melons	3 to 4	31-Mar	7-Apr	2 weeks after	28-Apr	
Mustard*	4 to 6	3-Feb	17-Feb	4 weeks before	17-Mar	

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Okra*	4 to 6	17-Mar	14-Apr	2 to 4 weeks after	28-Apr	12-May
Onions	8 to 10	6-Jan	20-Jan	4 weeks before	17-Mar	
Parsley	9 to 10	13-Jan	27-Jan	2 to 3 weeks before	24-Mar	31-Mar
Peas*	3 to 4	20-Jan	10-Feb	6 to 8 weeks before	17-Feb	3-Mar
Peppers	8	3-Mar		2 weeks after	28-Apr	
Pumpkins	3 to 4	31-Mar	7-Apr	2 weeks after	28-Apr	
Spinach	4 to 6	20-Jan	24-Feb	3 to 6 weeks before	3-Mar	24-Mar
Squash	3 to 4	31-Mar	7-Apr	2 weeks after	28-Apr	
Swiss chard	4 to 6	17-Feb	3-Mar	2 weeks before	31-Mar	
Tomatoes	6 to 8	24-Feb	17-Mar	1 to 2 weeks after	21-Apr	28-Apr
Watermelon	3 to 4	31-Mar	7-Apr	2 weeks after	28-Apr	
Ageratum	6 to 8	17-Feb	3-Mar	on frost-free date	14-Apr	

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Agrostemma (Corn Cockle)*	6 to 8	17-Feb	3-Mar	on frost-free date		14-Apr
Amaranthus	4 to 6	10-Mar	24-Mar	1 week after		21-Apr
Ammi (False Queen Anne's Lace)*	6 to 8	17-Feb	3-Mar	on frost-free date		14-Apr
Artemisia (Sweet Annie)	6 to 8	17-Feb	3-Mar	on frost-free date		14-Apr
Asclepias (Butterfly Weed)	10 to 12	20-Jan	3-Feb	on frost-free date		14-Apr
Aster, China	6 to 8	17-Feb	3-Mar	on frost-free date		14-Apr
Bells of Ireland**	6 to 8	17-Feb	3-Mar	on frost-free date		14-Apr
Calendula*	6 to 8	17-Feb	3-Mar	on frost-free date		14-Apr
Cardoon	6 to 8	17-Feb	3-Mar	on frost-free date		14-Apr
Carthamus (Safflower)*	4 to 6	3-Mar	17-Mar	on frost-free date		14-Apr
Castor Bean	6 to 8	24-Feb	10-Mar	1 week after		21-Apr
Celosia	6 to 8	24-Feb	10-Mar	1 week after		21-Apr

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Centaurea (Bachelor's Button)*	6 to 8	17-Feb	3-Mar	on frost-free date	14-Apr	
Chinese Lanterns	8 to 12	20-Jan	17-Feb	on frost-free date	14-Apr	
Coleus	8	24-Feb		1 week after	21-Apr	
Cosmos*	5 to 7	24-Feb	10-Mar	on frost-free date	14-Apr	
Craspedia (Drumstick Flower)	8 to 10	3-Feb	17-Feb	on frost-free date	14-Apr	
Datura (Angel's Trumpet)	8 to 12	3-Feb	10-Mar	2 to 3 weeks after	28-Apr	5-May
Delphinium	10 to 16	23-Dec	3-Feb	on frost-free date	14-Apr	
Dianthus (Sweet William)	10 to 12	6-Jan	27-Jan	1 to 2 weeks before	31-Mar	7-Apr
Digitalis (Foxglove)	10 to 12	20-Jan	3-Feb	on frost-free date	14-Apr	
Eucalyptus	10 to 12	20-Jan	3-Feb	on frost-free date	14-Apr	
Euphorbia (Snow-on-the-Mountain)*	4 to 6	3-Mar	17-Mar	on frost-free date	14-Apr	

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Flower Collections & Mixes*	6 to 8	17-Feb	3-Mar	on frost-free date		14-Apr
Forget-Me-Not	8 to 9	10-Feb	17-Feb	on frost-free date		14-Apr
Gaillardia (Blanket Flower)	8 to 10	3-Feb	17-Feb	on frost-free date		14-Apr
Gomphrena (Globe Amaranth)	6 to 8	17-Feb	3-Mar	on frost-free date		14-Apr
Helianthus maximillianii	8 to 10	3-Feb	17-Feb	on frost-free date		14-Apr
Hibiscus	8 to 10	10-Feb	24-Feb	1 week after		21-Apr
Hollyhock	8 to 10	3-Feb	17-Feb	on frost-free date		14-Apr
Hyacinth Bean	4 to 6	10-Mar	24-Mar	1 week after		21-Apr
Impatiens	8 to 10	10-Feb	24-Feb	1 week after		21-Apr
Kale, Ornamental	6 to 8	17-Feb	3-Mar	on frost-free date		14-Apr
Larkspur*	6 to 8	17-Feb	3-Mar	on frost-free date		14-Apr
Lisianthus	12 to 13	13-Jan	20-Jan	on frost-free date		14-Apr

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Lupine	6 to 8	3-Feb	17-Feb	2 weeks before	31-Mar	
Marigold	6 to 8	24-Feb	10-Mar	1 week after	21-Apr	
Monarda (Bee Balm)	6 to 8	17-Feb	3-Mar	on frost-free date	14-Apr	
Morning Glory	3 to 4	7-Apr	21-Apr	3 to 4 weeks after	5-May	12-May
Nigella*	4 to 6	3-Mar	17-Mar	on frost-free date	14-Apr	
Phlox**	4	17-Feb		1 to 2 weeks before	31-Mar	7-Apr
Pepper, Ornamental	8	24-Feb		1 week after	21-Apr	
Petunia	8 to 10	3-Feb	17-Feb	on frost-free date	14-Apr	
Polygonum (Prince's Feather)	8 to 10	3-Feb	17-Feb	on frost-free date	14-Apr	
California Poppy*	2 to 3	24-Mar	31-Mar	on frost-free date	14-Apr	
Corn Poppy*	2 to 3	24-Mar	31-Mar	on frost-free date	14-Apr	
Iceland Poppy	6 to 8	17-Feb	3-Mar	on frost-free date	14-Apr	

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Ptilotus	6 to 8	17-Feb	3-Mar	on frost-free date		14-Apr
Rudbeckia (Black Eyed Susan)	8 to 10	3-Feb	17-Feb	on frost-free date		14-Apr
Salpiglossis (Painted Tongue)	4 to 6	3-Mar	17-Mar	on frost-free date		14-Apr
Salvia	6 to 8	3-Feb	3-Mar	on frost-free date		14-Apr
Sanvitalia	6 to 8	17-Feb	3-Mar	on frost-free date		14-Apr
Scabiosa (Pincushion Flower)	4 to 6	3-Mar	17-Mar	on frost-free date		14-Apr
Scarlet Runner Bean	2 to 3			soil 60 degrees		
Snapdragon	8 to 10	3-Feb	17-Feb	on frost-free date		14-Apr
Statice	8	17-Feb		on frost-free date		14-Apr
Stock	8 to 10	3-Feb	17-Feb	on frost-free date		14-Apr
Sunflowers*	3-4	17-Mar	24-Mar	on frost-free date		14-Apr
Strawflower	6 to 8	17-Feb	3-Mar	on frost-free date		14-Apr

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Sweet Pea*	4 to 6	17-Feb	10-Mar	1 to 2 weeks before	31-Mar	7-Apr
Thunbergia (Black Eyed Susan Vine)	6 to 8	17-Feb	3-Mar	on frost-free date	14-Apr	
Tithonia (Mexican Sunflower)*	6	10-Mar		1 week after	21-Apr	
Verbena	8 to 12	20-Jan	17-Feb	on frost-free date	14-Apr	
Viola (Pansy)	8 to 12	6-Jan	10-Feb	1 to 2 weeks before	31-Mar	7-Apr
Yarrow	8 to 12	3-Feb	17-Feb	on frost-free date	14-Apr	
Zinnia	4	24-Mar		1 week after	21-Apr	

* Usually direct-sown, but may be started indoors

** Specifically recommended for direct seeding outdoors

Note: Dates are the same from year to year, but this table requires a year for computation simplicity



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