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Seed-Starting Date Calculator

The right time to start your seeds indoors varies significantly by crop and ranges anywhere from 2–16 weeks prior to transplanting. Use this calculator to ascertain when to start seeds indoors and then to transplant outside, based on the frost-free date in your area.

Enter spring frost-free date (include year):

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
VEGETABLES						
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
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/Mâche	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	

CROP	NUMBER OF WEEKS TO START SEEDS BEFORE SETTING- OUT DATE	When to start inside			Setting-out date	
		FROM	TO	SAFE TIME TO SET OUT PLANTS (RELATIVE TO FROST-FREE DATE)	FROM	TO
Mustard*	4 to 6	3-Feb	17-Feb	4 weeks before	17-Mar	
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	

FLOWERS

Ageratum	6 to 8	17-Feb	3-Mar	on frost-free date	14-Apr	
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	
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	

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		FROM	TO	SAFE TIME TO SET OUT PLANTS (RELATIVE TO FROST-FREE DATE)	FROM	TO
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	
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	
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

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		FROM	TO		FROM	TO
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	
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	
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	

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* Usually direct-sown, but can be started indoors

** Specifically recommended for direct-seeding outdoors

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