

# *Louisiana* Vegetable Planting Guide



# Louisiana Vegetable Planting Guide

Vegetable gardening is a favorite pastime for many individuals and families. Homegrown vegetables are better because they are fresher and have higher nutrient value since they are harvested closer to their peak ripeness. Homegrown vegetables usually cost less than if they were bought in the store.

Gardening provides a means of exercise, recreation, therapy and an opportunity for many to experience a closeness to nature. Statements such as "Let me show you my garden" or "I grew that," give a sense of self-satisfaction on which a monetary value cannot be placed.

Gardens may range in size from a single potted tomato plant to a large family or truck garden. However, remember to make your garden just large enough so that it will meet your needs but will not become a burden to care for.

Plan ahead. Locate the garden in as sunny a location as possible. The fruit-bearing crops, such as tomatoes, peppers and squash, need full sunlight for best production. Too much shade results in a very disappointed gardener because of limited production. However, the leafy vegetables will tolerate more shade than the root or fruit-bearing crops.

In Louisiana, something can be planted every day of the year, so make use of all the garden space year-round. As soon as one crop is through bearing, pull it out, rework the row and plant something else. For example, after Irish potatoes are dug in May or June, rework the row and plant peas, okra or sweet potatoes. Successive plantings made a week or two apart provide a means of having a continuous fresh supply of certain vegetables such as bush snap beans, peas or greens. Also, planting early, midseason and late-maturing varieties at the same time will extend your harvest. Of course, some of these practices will be limited by available space.

This publication should be used by the vegetable gardener as a guide to a successful garden. The information contained herein has been developed after considerable research and practical experience.

The following comments about each item may help you to better understand and use this information so that you can get the greatest benefit from it.

**Planting date** – With the spring planting, the southern-most parishes may use the earliest dates given for their first plantings. Gardeners in central

Louisiana should plant about two weeks later than the earliest dates given and north Louisiana about four weeks later. For example, snap beans may be planted on February 15 in New Orleans, but around March 1 in Alexandria and about March 15 in Shreveport or Monroe area. Generally, with the spring vegetables, the first planting should be made after the danger of frost is over.

**Seed or Plants 100 ft. of row** – The amount of seed given here is the minimum amount required to plant 100 feet of row.

**Depth to Plant Seed** – This will depend upon the seed size and soil type. Small seeded crops are planted shallow and larger seed crops are planted deeper. Heavy (clay) soils require a more shallow depth of planting than do lighter (sandy) soils. If irrigation water is not available and the soil is dry, your seed may have to be planted a little deeper than normal.

**Space Between Plants** – Correct spacing between and within rows is important to allow for proper growth, cultivation and efficient use of space. Leaving plants spaced too close will result in poor, weak growth and lower yields. It is a common practice to sow seed thickly and then thin to the proper spacing.

Rows are spaced 3 to 3 1/2 feet apart. For watermelon, pumpkin and cantaloupes, plant every other row.

For intensive culture or 'wide row' gardening use the larger 'in row' spacing and allow enough room between rows so that when the plants are mature, they will barely be touching the neighboring row. Remember that yields, quality and pest control will normally be superior if plants are given plenty of room to grow.

**Days to Harvest** – The number of days to harvest depends on the variety selected, the seasonal temperatures, seasonal rainfall, cultural practices and whether direct seeded or transplanted. The number of days indicated on the chart is an average range which can be expected.

For the gardener who is interested in the detailed culture of a certain crop, gardening hints for these crops are available from your county agent's office.

# Cultural Recommendations

Crop	Planting Dates		Seed/Plants per 100 ft.	Depth to Plant	Inches between Plants	Days to Harvest
	Spring	Fall				
Beans, Snap, Bush	2/15 - 5/15	8/10- 9/10	1/2 lb.	1/2"	2-3	48-55
Beans, Snap, Pole	2/15 - 5/15	8/10- 8/31	2 oz.	1/2	12	60-66
Beans, Lima, Bush	3/1 - 5/30	8/1 - 9/1	1/2 lb.	1/2	3-4	60-67
Beans, Lima, Pole	3/1 - 5/30	8/1 - 9/1	1/4 lb.	1/2	12	77-90
Beets	1/15 - 2/28	8/15 -10/1	3/4 oz.	1/4	2-4	55-60
Broccoli (Seed)	1/1 - 1/31	7/15 - 9/1	1/32 oz.	1/8	18-24	70-90*
Brussels Sprouts (Seed)	—	7/15 - 9/1	1/32 oz.	1/8	12-15	90*
Cabbage	10/1 - 1/30	7/1 - 9/15	1/32 oz.	1/8	12-15	65-75*
Cantaloupes	3/1 - 8/1		1/8 oz.	1/4	18-24	80-85
Carrots	1/15 - 2/15	9/1 -11/1	1/4 oz.	1/8	1-2	70-75
Cauliflower	1/15 - 2/15	7/1 - 9/1	1/16 oz.	1/8	18-24	55-65*
Celery (Seed)	—	10/1 -11/1	1/64 oz.	1/8	6-8	210
Chard, Swiss	1/15 - 5/1	8/15 - 10/30	1/2 oz.	1/4	6-8	45-55
Chinese Cabbage	1/15 - 2/15	7/15 - 10/1	1/32 oz.	1/4	12	60-80*
Collards	3/15 -10/1		1/16 oz.	1/8	6-12	75
Corn, Sweet	2/15 - 5/15	—	3 oz.	1/2	10-12	69-92
Cucumbers	—	3/1 - 9/1	1/4 oz.	1/4	12-18	50-65
Eggplant (Seed)	1/15 - 6/1	—	1/32 oz.	1/8	—	140
Eggplant (Plants)	3/15 - 7/1	—	50-60 plts.	—	18-24	80-85*
Garlic	—	10/1 -11/30	2 lbs.	1	4-6	210
Kohlrabi	1/1 - 3/30	8/15-10/30	1/16 oz.	1/8	6	55-75
Lettuce	1/1 - 1/31	8/15- 9/30	1/32 oz.	1/8	4-12	45-80
Mustard Greens	8/1 - 3/15		1/8 oz.	1/8	1-2	35-50
Okra	3/1 - 8/1		1/2 oz.	1/2	12	60
Onion, Leek (Seed)	—	9/20 - 10/15	1/8 oz.	1/8	2-4	135-210
Onion, Leek (Sets)	12/15 - 1/30	—	300-600 plts.	1	2-4	120-150
Peanuts	4/1 - 6/15	—	1/2 lb.	1	4-8	110-120
Peas, English	12/15 - 1/31	9/1 - 9/15	2-4 oz.	1/2	2-3	60-70
Peas, Southern	3/1 - 8/10		4-6 oz.	1/2	4-6	70-80
Pepper, Hot (Seed)	1/15 - 5/1	—	1/16 oz.	1/8	—	140
Pepper, Hot (Plants)	3/15 - 6/15	—	66-100 plts.	—	12-18	70*

\*Days from transplant; plts. = plants

# Cultural Recommendations

Crop	Planting Dates		Seed/Plants per 100 ft.	Depth to Plant	Inches between Plants	Days to Harvest
	Spring	Fall				
Pepper, Bell (Seed)	1/15 - 2/28	6/5 - 7/5	1/16 oz.	1/8	—	140-150
Pepper, Bell (Plants)	3/15 - 5/15	7/15 - 8/15	66-80 plts.	—	15-18	70-80*
Potatoes, Irish	1/20 - 2/28	8/15 - 9/10	10-12 lbs.	4	12	90-120
Potatoes, Sweet	4/10 - 7/1	—	100 plts.	—	12	90-120*
Pumpkin	—	3/15 - 9/15	1/2 oz.	1/2	36-60	90-120
Radishes	1/15 - 3/31	9/1 - 11/1	1 oz.	1/8	1	22-28
Rutabagas	—	7/1 - 8/31	1/16 oz.	1/8	4-8	88
Shallots	—	7/1 - 2/28	200-300 plts.	1	4-8	50
Spinach	—	10/1 - 2/28	1/4 oz.	1/8	3-6	35-45
Summer Squash	3/1 - 8/15		1/2 oz.	1/8	36	50-90
Tomatoes (Seed)	1/1 - 3/15	6/1 - 7/1	1/64 oz.	1/8	—	100-115
Tomatoes (Plant)	3/1 - 5/1	7/1 - 8/15	50-66 plts.	—	16-24	60-75*
Turnips	—	8/1 - 2/28	1/8 oz.	1/8	2-6	40-50
Watermelons	3/15 - 8/1	—	1/4 oz.	1/2	48	90-110

\*Days from transplant; plts. = plants



## Recommended Varieties for Louisiana

Beans, Lima (Bush)	Henderson Bush, Bridgeton, Fordhook 242 (AAS), Thorogreen, Jackson Wonder, Dixie Butterpea, NemaGreen (N), Baby Lima
Beans, Lima (Pole)	Burpee's Best, Carolina Sieva, Florida Speckled, Willow Leaf, Christmas, Florida Butter, King
Beans, Snap (Bush)	Provider, Contender, Blue Lake 274, Royal Burgundy, Strike, Festina, Ambra, Magnum, Golden Rod Wax, Green Crop (flat), Roma II, Atlantic, Bronco, Hialeah, Pod Squad, Storm, Derby (AAS)
Beans, Snap (Pole)	Kentucky Blue (AAS), McCaslin, Charon, Dade, Blue Lake, Kentucky Wonder 191, Rattlesnake (striped), Yardlong Asparagus Bean
Beets	Ruby Queen, Detroit Dark Red, Red Ace, Centurion, Chariot, Kestrel, Solo
Broccoli	Decathlon, Packman, Olympus, Green Comet, Gypsy, Premium Crop (AAS), Arcadia, Everest
Brussels Sprouts	Jade Cross E, Long Island Imp., Long Island Dwarf, Prince Marvel, Oliver
Cabbage	Early maturing: Blue Vantage, Stonehead, Green Boy
	Later maturing: Rio Verde, Dynamo (AAS), Cheers, Bravo, Solid Blue 780 and 790, Red Rookie, Cardinal, AC #5+, Emblem, Vantage Point
	Savoy type (all AAS): Ace, King, Express
Cantaloupe	Primo, Magnum 45, Super 45, Eclipse, Athena, Ambrosia, Mission, Vienna
	Honeydew: Earli-dew, Passport, Honey Brew, Summer Dew
Carrots	Danvers 126, Thumbelina, Purple Haze (AAS)
	Deep soils: Imperator 58, Apache, Choctaw, Navajo, Maverick, Sugar Snax 54, Enterprise
Cauliflower	Snow Crown, Majestic, Candid Charm, Incline, Cumberland, Wentworth, Serrano
Celery	Golden Self-blanching, Clean Cut, Summer Pascal, Florida 683
Chinese Cabbage	Napa: China Pride, Apollo, Optiko
	Pak Choi: Joi Choi, Mei Qing Choi, White Celery
	Chihli: Jade Pagoda, Michihli, Monument, Greenwich
Collards	Top Pick, Vates, Georgia (Creole), Blue Max hybrid, Flash, Heavi Crop
Corn, Sweet	Normal sweet: Seneca Horizon (BC), Quick Silver, Silver Queen, Merit, Funks G90 (BC)
	Supersweet: Dazzle (BC), Honey 'N Pearl (AAS) (BC), Summer Sweet 8101, 8102 or 7210, Prime Plus, Big Time (BC), Crisp 'N Sweet
	Enhanced sweet: Platinum Lady, Lancelot, Precious Gem, Sweet Ice, Argent, Snowbelle, Bodacious, Incredible, Sweet Chorus (BC), Sweet Rhythm (BC), Honey Select (AAS)
Cucumbers	Slicers: Dasher II, General Lee, Thunder, Speedway, Poinsett 76, Slice More, Intimidator, Rockingham, Taledega, Indy, Sweet Slice, Sweet Success (AAS), Fanfare (AAS), Diva (AAS)
	Pickler: Calypso, Fancipak, Wellington
Eggplant	Santana, Blackbell, Ichiban, Green, Epic, Dusky, Classic, Calliope, Fairy Tale, Fla. Hi Bush, Black Beauty.
Garlic	Silverskin, NY White Neck, Mexican, Italian, Creole
	Large: Elephant, Tahiti
Kohlrabi Grand	Grand Duke (AAS), Winner, Early White Vienna, Early Purple Vienna
Lettuce	Semi-head: Green Forest, Green Towers, Tall Guzmaine, Esmerelda, Buttercrunch (AAS), Oak Leaf, Parris Island Cos
	Leaf: Simpson Elite, Red Fire, Red Salad Bowl, Nevada, Sierra, Red Sails (AAS), Sunset (AAS)
	Head: Great Lakes, Ithaca, Mavrick
Mustard	Tendergreen, Florida Broadleaf, Southern Giant Curled, Savannah, Greenwave
Okra	La. Green Velvet, Clemson Spineless, Emerald, Annie Oakley, Cowhorn, Cajun Delight (AAS)
Onion	Red: Red Creole C5, Red Burgundy.
	White: Super Star Hybrid (AAS), Candy, Savannah Sweet
	Yellow: Granex 33, Texas Grano 1015 Y, Nirvana, Sweet Melody, Grano 502
	Scallions: Crystal Wax, Ismikura Bunching, Evergreen White Bunching
Peas, English Novella	Sugar Snap (AAS), Oregon Sugar Pod, Sugar Bon, Green Arrow, Knight, Alderman, Mr. Big (AAS), Spring, Sugar Ann

N = Nematode resistant; AAS = All America Selection; OP = Open pollinated; BC=Bicolor

## Recommended Varieties for Louisiana

Peas, Southern	Blackeye: Magnolia (N), Queen Anne, Royal, California #5
	Pinkeye: Mississippi Pinkeye, Pinkeye Purple Hull, QuickPick, Top Pick Pink
	Cream: Elite, Mississippi Cream, Texas #8, Top Pick Cream, Zipper Cream
	Crowder: Dixie Lee, Hercules, Knuckle Purple, Mississippi Purple (N), Mississippi Shipper, Mississippi Silver (N), Top Pick Cream, Zipper Cream
Pepper, sweet/mild	Bell: Jupiter (OP), Capistrano (OP), Camelot X3R, Excursion II, Heritage, King Arthur, Orobelle, Super Heavy Weight (AAS), Paladin, Plato, Revolution, Stilletto, Summer Gold, Valencia, Blushing Beauty (AAS), Aristotle X3R
	Frying Type: Cubanella, Early Sweet Banana, Banana Supreme, Biscayne, Gypsy (AAS), Key Largo, Tiburon Ancho, Ancho 101, Carmen (AAS), Giant Marconi (AAS)
Pepper, Hot	Long Thin Cayenne, Tula, Jalapeno M, Hungarian Wax, Habanero, Tabasco, Charleston Hot, Red Thick Cayenne, Inferno, Mitla, Mariachi (AAS), Super Cayenne, Tormenta, Serrano, Holy Mole (AAS)
Potatoes, Irish	Red skin: Red LaSoda, Norland, LaRouge, Red Pontiac
	White skin: LaChipper, Norchip, Atlantic, Kennebec, LaBelle, Yukon Gold
Potatoes, Sweet	Beauregard, Centennial, Jewel (N), Hernandez, Unit No. 1 Porto Rico, Bienville
Pumpkins	Atlantic Giant, Big Moon, Full Moon, Prize Winner, Big Max (OP), Aladdin, Big Autumn, Howden Biggie, Aspen, Gold Medallion, Sorcerer (AAS), Gold Rush (AAS), Gold Bullion, Pro Gold 510, Appalachian, Autumn Gold (AAS), Spirit (AAS), Howdy Doody, Magic Lantern, Frosty, Autumn Gold, Neon, Lumina, Cushaws – green or gold, Small Sugar, Orange Smoothie (AAS), Jack-Be-Little (AAS), Munchkin, Lil Ironsides, Baby Bear (AAS)
Shallots	Green: Bonheur, Delta Giant, La. Evergreen, Summergreen
	Bulbs: Prisma, Matador
Spinach	Hybrid 7, Melody (AAS), Bloomsdale L.S., Tye, Unipak 151, Greyhound
	Smooth: Ballet, TigerCat, Mig
Squash, Summer	Zucchini: Declaration II, Dividend, Independence, Payroll, Revenue, Senator, Tigress, Spineless Beauty, Gold Rush (AAS)
	Straight Neck: Cougar, Enterprise, Goldbar, Lemondrop, Liberator III, Multipik, Patriot II, Superpik
	Crook Neck: Destiny III, Dixie, Gentry, Prelude II, Goldie, Supersett
	Scalloped: Sunburst, Peter Pan
Squash, Winter	AAS Winners: Cream of Crop, Table King, Early Butternut, Sweet Mama, Sunshine, Waltham Butternut, Bush Delicata, Tivoli Spaghetti
	Others: Golden Hubbard (OP), Table Ace, Tay Belle, Table Queen, Butternut Supreme, Imperial Delight, El Dorado, La Estrella, Vegetable Spaghetti
Tomatoes	Vine Type: Big Beef (AAS) (N), Champion (N), Terrific (N), Monte Carlo (N), First Lady (N), Better Boy (N), Jet Star, Creole, Husky Gold, Sun Gold, Pink Girl.
	Bush Type: Amelia, Floralina, Crista (N), Celebrity (AAS) (N), Bella Rosa, Mountain Fresh, Mountain Spring, Mountain Crest, Quincy.
	Heat Tolerant: BHN 216, Florida 91, Phoenix, Redline, Sun Leaper, Sun Chaser, Sunmaster, Solar Set
	Others: Cherry Grande, Brixmore (N), Small Fry (AAS), Mountain Belle, Niagra Belle, Cupid, Jolly Elf, Navidad, Jolly, Juliet (AAS), Sweet Million, Elfin, St. Nick, BHN 685, Spectrum 882 (N), Muriel (N)
Turnips	Royal Crown, White Lady, Just Right (AAS), Shogoin, Tokyo Cross (AAS), Purple Top
	Greens: Seven Top
Watermelon	Crimson Sweet (OP), Jubilee II (OP), Fiesta, La Sweet (OP), Jamboree, Jubilation, Patriot, Regency, Royal Star, Royal Jubilee, Royal Sweet, Sangria, Stars 'N Stripes, Starbrite, Summer Flavor 800, 710 or 500.
	Seedless: Revolution, Summer Sweet 5244, TriX Carousel or 313, Cooperstown, Millionaire, Crimson Trio, Laurel, Nova
	Ice Box Type: Sugar Baby, Mickeylee
	Yellow: Gold Strike, Tendersweet, Desert King
N = Nematode resistant; AAS = All America Selection; OP = Open pollinated; BC=Bicolor	

# General Fertilizer Recommendations

Crops	Fertilizer or equivalent per 100 ft. of row or per 300 sq. ft.	Sidedress
Beans (Snap, Lima or Butter), Peas	2-3 lbs. 8-24-24	—
	or 2-5 lbs. 8-8-8	
Beets, Carrots, Radishes, Turnips, Rutabagas, Kohlrabi	6-7 lbs. 8-8-8	*3-4 weeks after planting
	or 4-5 lbs. 8-24-24	
Cabbage, Collards, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cauliflower	5-6 lbs. 8-8-8	*3-4 weeks after transplanting and again in 2-3 weeks.
	or 3-4 lbs. 8-24-24	
Cantaloupes, Watermelon, Honeydew	5-6 lbs. 8-8-8	*once when vines begin to run
	or 3-4 lbs. 8-24-24	
Celery	6-7 lbs. 8-8-8	*once after frost danger has passed and again in 3-4 weeks.
	or 5 lbs. 8-24-24	
Corn (Sweet)	6-7 lbs. 8-8-8	*at 1 ft. and 3 ft. tall
	or 4-5 lbs. 8-24-24	
Tomato	4-5 lbs. 8-24-24	*at first fruit set and every 3-4 weeks thereafter
	or 6-8 lbs. 8-8-8	
Lettuce, Endive, Escarole, Romaine Fennel (double for head lettuce)	4-5 lbs. 8-24-24	*3-4 weeks after transplanting
	or 6-7 lbs. 8-8-8	
Onion, Garlic, Shallot	4-5 lbs. 8-8-8	*4-6 weeks after transplanting; bulb onion & garlic in March as bulb begins to swell
	or 3-4 lbs. 8-24-24	
Mustard, Parsley, Spinach	4-5 lbs. 8-24-24	*3-4 weeks after planting
	or 6-7 lbs. 8-8-8	
Okra	2-3 lbs. 8-24-24	*after first pod set & every 4-6 weeks thereafter
	or 3-4 lbs. 8-8-8	
Pepper, Eggplant	4-5 lbs. 8-24-24	*at first fruit set
	or 5-6 lbs. 8-8-8	
Potatoes (Irish)	6-8 lbs. 8-8-8	*after plants are 6-10 inches tall
	or 5-6 lbs. 8-24-24	
Potatoes (Sweet)	3-4 lbs. 8-24-24	—
	or 4-5 lbs. 8-8-8	
Squash, Cucumber, Pumpkin	3-5 lbs. 8-24-24	*as plants begin to run and again in 3-4 weeks.
	or 4-6 lbs. 8-8-8	

Note: One quart of fertilizer weighs about 2 lbs. First analysis listed is the preferred blend.

\*For 100 ft. of row or 300 sq. ft. apply ¾ lb. ammonium nitrate or 1 lb. ammonium sulfate. (If ammonium nitrate or ammonium sulfate is not available, 3 lbs. of 8-8-8 may be substituted.)

**General fertilizer recommendations** are based on soils of average fertility having no imbalances of major soil nutrients. A soil analysis will show if certain soil nutrients are exceptionally high or low. Most garden vegetables need a soil pH (acidity) between 6 and 7. Lime should not be applied without a soil analysis showing a need for lime.

It should be understood that the numbers (analysis) on a bag of fertilizer represent the percent of nitrogen, phosphate and potash. For example, a 100-lb. bag of 8-8-8 fertilizer contains 8% or 8 lbs. of nitrogen (N), 8% or 8 lbs. of phosphate (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>), and 8% or 8 lbs. of potash (K<sub>2</sub>O). Other analysis fertilizer can be substituted for those listed to provide approximately the same amount of plant food, however, they will be applied at different rates. For example, 6 lbs. of a 12-12-12 contains an equivalent amount of N-P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>-K<sub>2</sub>O as 9 lbs. of 8-8-8 since it contains approximately one-third more plant food (36 lbs./100 lb. bag of 12-12-12 vs 24 lbs./100 lb. bag of 8-8-8).

## Year-Around Vegetable Garden

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	
<b>Row 1</b>	Greens.....		Tomatoes*				Cabbage.....					Greens	
<b>Row 2</b>	Onions.....						Southern Peas.....		Onions.....				
<b>Row 3</b>	Greens.....		Bell Pepper*				Broccoli.....					Greens	
<b>Row 4</b>	Shallots.....		Snap beans.....				Cantaloupe.....			Lettuce.....			
<b>Row 5</b>				Eggplants*								Spinach.....	
<b>Row 6</b>	Greens.....			Butter Beans.....			Cauliflower.....						
<b>Row 7</b>	Greens.....		Squash.....						Carrots.....				
<b>Row 8</b>			...Irish potatoes.....					Squash.....		Beets.....			
<b>Row 9</b>	Greens.....			Cucumbers.....			Southern Peas.....		English Peas.....				
<b>Row 10</b>	Shallots.....			Okra.....								Shallots.....	
	Frost											Frost	

\*Transplanted

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