

Detroit, MI Vegetable Planting Calendar

Here are planting dates for 26 vegetables in Detroit, for the 2027 season, based on 1991–2020 normals. We start from the 32°F frost odds at Dearborn #2 (4.4 mi SW) and apply CSU Extension timing rules, each listed below with its source.

The timing rules come from Colorado State University Extension (spring) and University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension (fall count-back), and were written for those states. We apply them to Detroit's NOAA frost dates; Michigan extension guidance may differ.

Frost anchors: typical last frost Apr 27 (50%), balanced May 2 (30%), safe May 11 (10%); typical first frost Oct 25. Station Dearborn #2 (USC00202016), confidence Medium. USDA zone 6b (2023). Detroit frost dates & growing zone.

Spring planting dates

“Plant out” means transplanting for crops started indoors and sowing or planting directly in the garden for the others. Each column applies CSU Extension's timing rule to a different last-frost anchor: **aggressive** = typical date (Apr 27, 50% risk), **balanced** = May 2 (30%), **safe** = May 11 (10%). For hardy crops the cell shows the CSU “as early as” window.

Detroit spring planting (2027 season)

Crop	How	Start indoors	Plant out: aggressive (50%)	Balanced (30%)	Safe (10%)	Min. soil temp
Tomatoes Very tender (warm season)	transplant	Apr 7–21	May 26	May 26	May 26	50°F
Peppers Very tender (warm season)	transplant	Mar 21 – Apr 4	May 11	May 16	May 25	60°F
Potatoes Semi-hardy (cool season)	plant (seed pieces)	–	Apr 13–27	Apr 18 – May 2	Apr 27 – May 11	45°F
Onions (dry, from sets) Hardy (cool season)	plant sets	–	Mar 30 – Apr 13	Apr 4–18	Apr 13–27	35°F
Peas Hardy (cool season)	direct sow	–	Mar 30 – Apr 13	Apr 4–18	Apr 13–27	40°F
Lettuce (leaf) Hardy (cool season)	direct sow	–	Mar 30 – Apr 13	Apr 4–18	Apr 13–27	35°F
Carrots Semi-hardy (cool season)	direct sow	–	Apr 13–27	Apr 18 – May 2	Apr 27 – May 11	40°F
Beans (snap) Tender (warm season)	direct sow	–	Apr 27	May 2	May 11	55°F
Summer squash Tender (warm season)	direct sow	–	Apr 27	May 2	May 11	60°F

Crop	How	Start indoors	Plant out: aggressive (50%)	Balanced (30%)	Safe (10%)	Min. soil temp
Broccoli Hardy (cool season)	transplant	Feb 14–28	Mar 30 – Apr 13	Apr 4–18	Apr 13–27	40°F
Cabbage Hardy (cool season)	transplant	Feb 14–28	Mar 30 – Apr 13	Apr 4–18	Apr 13–27	40°F
Cauliflower Semi-hardy (cool season)	transplant	Feb 28 – Mar 14	Apr 13–27	Apr 18 – May 2	Apr 27 – May 11	40°F
Kohlrabi Hardy (cool season)	direct sow	–	Mar 30 – Apr 13	Apr 4–18	Apr 13–27	40°F
Green onions Hardy (cool season)	direct sow	–	Mar 30 – Apr 13	Apr 4–18	Apr 13–27	35°F
Radishes Hardy (cool season)	direct sow	–	Mar 30 – Apr 13	Apr 4–18	Apr 13–27	40°F
Spinach Hardy (cool season)	direct sow	–	Mar 30 – Apr 13	Apr 4–18	Apr 13–27	40°F
Turnips Hardy (cool season)	direct sow	–	Mar 30 – Apr 13	Apr 4–18	Apr 13–27	40°F
Beets Semi-hardy (cool season)	direct sow	–	Apr 13–27	Apr 18 – May 2	Apr 27 – May 11	40°F
Swiss chard Semi-hardy (cool season)	direct sow	–	Apr 13–27	Apr 18 – May 2	Apr 27 – May 11	40°F

Crop	How	Start indoors	Plant out: aggressive (50%)	Balanced (30%)	Safe (10%)	Min. soil temp
Parsnips Semi-hardy (cool season)	direct sow	–	Apr 13–27	Apr 18 – May 2	Apr 27 – May 11	35°F
Sweet corn Tender (warm season)	direct sow	–	Apr 27	May 2	May 11	50°F
Cucumbers Tender (warm season)	direct sow	–	Apr 27	May 2	May 11	60°F
Eggplant Very tender (warm season)	transplant	Mar 14 – Apr 4	May 11	May 16	May 25	60°F
Cantaloupe Very tender (warm season)	direct sow	–	May 11	May 16	May 25	60°F
Watermelon Very tender (warm season)	direct sow	–	May 11	May 16	May 25	60°F
Winter squash Very tender (warm season)	direct sow	–	May 11	May 16	May 25	60°F

Frost odds aren't the only check. CSU recommends measuring soil temperature at 4 inches (6 inches for beans) before you sow. NOAA doesn't publish soil-temperature normals, so we list each crop's minimum soil temperature from CSU instead of a date.

Fall planting dates

Latest dates for a fall harvest, using the University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension count-back formula: days to harvest (CSU) + 14-day fall factor + 14-day frost-tender factor for frost-sensitive crops, counted back from the first-frost date. For transplanted crops (CSU days are from transplant) the result is the latest transplant date; seeds go in CSU's transplant-age weeks earlier. We add no harvest period, so these dates give you a first harvest by the first frost, not a long harvest.

Detroit fall planting

Crop	How	Days counted back	By (typical first frost Oct 25)	By (early first frost Oct 10)
Peas	sow	79	Aug 7	Jul 23
Lettuce (leaf)	sow	74	Aug 12	Jul 28
Carrots	sow	84	Aug 2	Jul 18
Beans (snap)	sow	88 (frost-tender)	Jul 29	Jul 14
Summer squash	sow	78 (frost-tender)	Aug 8	Jul 24
Broccoli	transplant (start seeds Jun 19 – Jul 3)	79	Aug 7	Jul 23
Cabbage	transplant (start seeds May 30 – Jun 13)	99	Jul 18	Jul 3
Kohlrabi	sow	64	Aug 22	Aug 7
Green onions	sow	74	Aug 12	Jul 28
Radishes	sow	44	Sep 11	Aug 27
Spinach	sow	54	Sep 1	Aug 17
Turnips	sow	64	Aug 22	Aug 7
Beets	sow	74	Aug 12	Jul 28
Swiss chard	sow	74	Aug 12	Jul 28
Cucumbers	sow	83 (frost-tender)	Aug 3	Jul 19

Month-by-month: what to plant in Detroit

What to plant in Detroit in February

- Start broccoli seeds indoors (Feb 14–28)
- Start cabbage seeds indoors (Feb 14–28)

- Start cauliflower seeds indoors (Feb 28 – Mar 14)

What to plant in Detroit in March

- Start eggplant seeds indoors (Mar 14 – Apr 4)
- Start pepper seeds indoors (Mar 21 – Apr 4)
- Onions (dry, from sets): plant sets outdoors (Mar 30 – Apr 27)
- Peas: direct sow outdoors (Mar 30 – Apr 27)
- Lettuce (leaf): direct sow outdoors (Mar 30 – Apr 27)
- Broccoli: transplant outdoors (Mar 30 – Apr 27)
- Cabbage: transplant outdoors (Mar 30 – Apr 27)
- Kohlrabi: direct sow outdoors (Mar 30 – Apr 27)
- Green onions: direct sow outdoors (Mar 30 – Apr 27)
- Radishes: direct sow outdoors (Mar 30 – Apr 27)
- Spinach: direct sow outdoors (Mar 30 – Apr 27)
- Turnips: direct sow outdoors (Mar 30 – Apr 27)
- Start cauliflower seeds indoors (Feb 28 – Mar 14)

What to plant in Detroit in April

- Start tomato seeds indoors (Apr 7–21)
- Potatoes: plant (seed pieces) outdoors (Apr 13 – May 11)
- Carrots: direct sow outdoors (Apr 13 – May 11)
- Cauliflower: transplant outdoors (Apr 13 – May 11)
- Beets: direct sow outdoors (Apr 13 – May 11)
- Swiss chard: direct sow outdoors (Apr 13 – May 11)
- Parsnips: direct sow outdoors (Apr 13 – May 11)
- Beans (snap): direct sow outdoors (Apr 27 – May 11)
- Summer squash: direct sow outdoors (Apr 27 – May 11)
- Sweet corn: direct sow outdoors (Apr 27 – May 11)
- Cucumbers: direct sow outdoors (Apr 27 – May 11)
- Start eggplant seeds indoors (Mar 14 – Apr 4)
- Start pepper seeds indoors (Mar 21 – Apr 4)
- Onions (dry, from sets): plant sets outdoors (Mar 30 – Apr 27)
- Peas: direct sow outdoors (Mar 30 – Apr 27)
- Lettuce (leaf): direct sow outdoors (Mar 30 – Apr 27)
- Broccoli: transplant outdoors (Mar 30 – Apr 27)
- Cabbage: transplant outdoors (Mar 30 – Apr 27)
- Kohlrabi: direct sow outdoors (Mar 30 – Apr 27)
- Green onions: direct sow outdoors (Mar 30 – Apr 27)
- Radishes: direct sow outdoors (Mar 30 – Apr 27)
- Spinach: direct sow outdoors (Mar 30 – Apr 27)

- Turnips: direct sow outdoors (Mar 30 – Apr 27)

What to plant in Detroit in May

- Peppers: transplant outdoors (May 11–25)
- Eggplant: transplant outdoors (May 11–25)
- Cantaloupe: direct sow outdoors (May 11–25)
- Watermelon: direct sow outdoors (May 11–25)
- Winter squash: direct sow outdoors (May 11–25)
- Tomatoes: transplant outdoors (May 26)
- Start cabbage seeds indoors for a fall crop (May 30 – Jun 13)
- Potatoes: plant (seed pieces) outdoors (Apr 13 – May 11)
- Carrots: direct sow outdoors (Apr 13 – May 11)
- Cauliflower: transplant outdoors (Apr 13 – May 11)
- Beets: direct sow outdoors (Apr 13 – May 11)
- Swiss chard: direct sow outdoors (Apr 13 – May 11)
- Parsnips: direct sow outdoors (Apr 13 – May 11)
- Beans (snap): direct sow outdoors (Apr 27 – May 11)
- Summer squash: direct sow outdoors (Apr 27 – May 11)
- Sweet corn: direct sow outdoors (Apr 27 – May 11)
- Cucumbers: direct sow outdoors (Apr 27 – May 11)

What to plant in Detroit in June

- Start broccoli seeds indoors for a fall crop (Jun 19 – Jul 3)
- Start cabbage seeds indoors for a fall crop (May 30 – Jun 13)

What to plant in Detroit in July

- Last day to set out cabbage transplants for a fall harvest (by Jul 18)
- Last day to sow beans (snap) for a fall harvest (by Jul 29)
- Start broccoli seeds indoors for a fall crop (Jun 19 – Jul 3)

What to plant in Detroit in August

- Last day to sow carrots for a fall harvest (by Aug 2)
- Last day to sow cucumbers for a fall harvest (by Aug 3)
- Last day to sow peas for a fall harvest (by Aug 7)
- Last day to set out broccoli transplants for a fall harvest (by Aug 7)
- Last day to sow summer squash for a fall harvest (by Aug 8)
- Last day to sow lettuce (leaf) for a fall harvest (by Aug 12)
- Last day to sow green onions for a fall harvest (by Aug 12)

- Last day to sow beets for a fall harvest (by Aug 12)
- Last day to sow swiss chard for a fall harvest (by Aug 12)
- Last day to sow kohlrabi for a fall harvest (by Aug 22)
- Last day to sow turnips for a fall harvest (by Aug 22)

What to plant in Detroit in September

- Last day to sow spinach for a fall harvest (by Sep 1)
- Last day to sow radishes for a fall harvest (by Sep 11)

Crop-by-crop notes

When to plant tomatoes in Detroit

Very tender crop. CSU Extension says to transplant tomatoes at least 2 weeks after the average last frost, with nights above 52°F. The frost rule alone would put Detroit at about May 11, but the average nightly low at Dearborn #2 isn't above 52°F until May 26, so the transplant date is about May 26 for the typical, balanced and safer choices alike. Start seeds indoors Apr 7–21, 5–7 weeks before transplanting on May 26. Fruit set suffers when nights drop below 55°F (CSU). The normal low at Dearborn #2 reaches 55°F on Jun 2. Using CSU's typical 65 days from transplant to harvest, tomato plants set out on May 26 would start producing around Jul 30. That's 87 days before the typical first frost (Oct 25).

When to plant peppers in Detroit

Very tender crop. Following CSU Extension's rule (2+ weeks after the average last frost), set peppers out around May 11 with the typical date, May 16 for a balanced choice, or May 25 with the safer 10% date. Sow seeds indoors Mar 21 – Apr 4, 6–8 weeks before transplanting on May 16. Below 55°F at night, fruit set suffers (CSU). At Dearborn #2, the normal low reaches 55°F on Jun 2. CSU's typical time from transplant to harvest for pepper plants is 70 days. Set out on May 16, they would start producing around Jul 25, 92 days before the typical first frost (Oct 25).

When to plant potatoes in Detroit

Semi-hardy crop. Per CSU, potatoes can go in as early as 0–2 weeks before the average last frost: roughly Apr 13–27 in Detroit (typical date) or Apr 27 – May 11 (safer date). The soil should be at least 45°F.

When to plant onions (dry, from sets) in Detroit

Hardy crop. CSU says onions (dry, from sets) can go in as early as 2–4 weeks before the average last frost, once the soil can be worked and is at least 35°F. In Detroit, that's roughly Mar 30 – Apr 13 going by the typical date, or Apr 13–27 going by the safer date.

When to plant peas in Detroit

Hardy crop. CSU says peas can go in as early as 2–4 weeks before the average last frost: roughly Mar 30 – Apr 13 in Detroit using the typical date, or Apr 13–27 using the safer one. Wait until the soil can be worked and is at least 40°F. For fall, sow by Aug 7 (Jul 23 to be safe), which is 79 days before the first-frost date.

When to plant lettuce (leaf) in Detroit

Hardy crop. CSU says lettuce (leaf) can go in as early as 2–4 weeks before the average last frost: roughly Mar 30 – Apr 13 in Detroit using the typical date, or Apr 13–27 using the safer one. Wait until the soil can be worked and is at least 35°F. For a fall crop, sow by Aug 12, or by Jul 28 to be safe. That's 74 days back from the first-frost date.

When to plant carrots in Detroit

Semi-hardy crop. Per CSU, carrots can go in as early as 0–2 weeks before the average last frost: roughly Apr 13–27 in Detroit (typical date) or Apr 27 – May 11 (safer date). The soil should be at least 40°F. For a fall crop, sow by Aug 2, or by Jul 18 to be safe. That's 84 days back from the first-frost date.

When to plant beans (snap) in Detroit

Tender crop. CSU says to sow beans (snap) around the average last frost, about Apr 27 in Detroit. If you want only a 1-in-10 chance of a later 32°F night, wait until May 11. Seeds need soil of at least 55°F. For a fall crop, sow by Jul 29, or by Jul 14 to be safe. That's 88 days back from the first-frost date.

When to plant summer squash in Detroit

Tender crop. CSU says to sow summer squash around the average last frost, about Apr 27 in Detroit. If you want only a 1-in-10 chance of a later 32°F night, wait until May 11. Seeds need soil of at least 60°F. For fall, count back 78 days from the first-frost date. That means sowing by Aug 8, or by Jul 24 to be safe.

When to plant broccoli in Detroit

Hardy crop. Per CSU, broccoli can be planted as early as 2–4 weeks before the average last frost, as long as the soil is workable and at least 40°F. For Detroit, that works out to roughly Mar 30 – Apr 13

(typical date) or Apr 13–27 (safer date). Using CSU's typical 65 days from transplant to harvest, broccoli plants set out on Apr 4 would start producing around Jun 8. That's 139 days before the typical first frost (Oct 25). For a fall harvest of broccoli, get transplants in the ground by Aug 7 (UNL Extension count-back from the typical first frost, Oct 25, with CSU's 65 days from transplant to harvest). To raise your own, sow seeds Jun 19 – Jul 3, 5–7 weeks ahead (CSU).

When to plant cabbage in Detroit

Hardy crop. CSU says cabbage can go in as early as 2–4 weeks before the average last frost, once the soil can be worked and is at least 40°F. In Detroit, that's roughly Mar 30 – Apr 13 going by the typical date, or Apr 13–27 going by the safer date. Set out on Apr 4, cabbage plants would start producing around Jun 28, based on CSU's typical 85 days from transplant to harvest. That leaves 119 days before the typical first frost (Oct 25). For a fall harvest of cabbage, get transplants in the ground by Jul 18 (UNL Extension count-back from the typical first frost, Oct 25, with CSU's 85 days from transplant to harvest). To raise your own, sow seeds May 30 – Jun 13, 5–7 weeks ahead (CSU).

When to plant cauliflower in Detroit

Semi-hardy crop. CSU allows planting cauliflower as early as 0–2 weeks before the average last frost, in soil at 40°F or warmer. For Detroit, that's roughly Apr 13–27 by the typical date or Apr 27 – May 11 by the safer date.

When to plant kohlrabi in Detroit

Hardy crop. CSU says kohlrabi can go in as early as 2–4 weeks before the average last frost: roughly Mar 30 – Apr 13 in Detroit using the typical date, or Apr 13–27 using the safer one. Wait until the soil can be worked and is at least 40°F. For fall, sow by Aug 22 (Aug 7 to be safe), which is 64 days before the first-frost date.

When to plant green onions in Detroit

Hardy crop. CSU says green onions can go in as early as 2–4 weeks before the average last frost: roughly Mar 30 – Apr 13 in Detroit using the typical date, or Apr 13–27 using the safer one. Wait until the soil can be worked and is at least 35°F. For fall, sow by Aug 12 (Jul 28 to be safe), which is 74 days before the first-frost date.

When to plant radishes in Detroit

Hardy crop. CSU says radishes can go in as early as 2–4 weeks before the average last frost, once the soil can be worked and is at least 40°F. In Detroit, that's roughly Mar 30 – Apr 13 going by the typical date, or Apr 13–27 going by the safer date. For a fall crop, sow by Sep 11, or by Aug 27 to be safe. That's 44 days back from the first-frost date.

When to plant spinach in Detroit

Hardy crop. CSU says spinach can go in as early as 2–4 weeks before the average last frost, once the soil can be worked and is at least 40°F. In Detroit, that's roughly Mar 30 – Apr 13 going by the typical date, or Apr 13–27 going by the safer date. For a fall crop, sow by Sep 1, or by Aug 17 to be safe. That's 54 days back from the first-frost date.

When to plant turnips in Detroit

Hardy crop. Per CSU, turnips can be planted as early as 2–4 weeks before the average last frost, as long as the soil is workable and at least 40°F. For Detroit, that works out to roughly Mar 30 – Apr 13 (typical date) or Apr 13–27 (safer date). For a fall crop, sow by Aug 22, or by Aug 7 to be safe. That's 64 days back from the first-frost date.

When to plant beets in Detroit

Semi-hardy crop. CSU says beets can be planted as early as 0–2 weeks before the average last frost, in soil of at least 40°F. In Detroit, that's roughly Apr 13–27 going by the typical date, or Apr 27 – May 11 going by the safer date. For fall, sow by Aug 12 (Jul 28 to be safe), which is 74 days before the first-frost date.

When to plant swiss chard in Detroit

Semi-hardy crop. CSU says swiss chard can be planted as early as 0–2 weeks before the average last frost, in soil of at least 40°F. In Detroit, that's roughly Apr 13–27 going by the typical date, or Apr 27 – May 11 going by the safer date. For fall, sow by Aug 12 (Jul 28 to be safe), which is 74 days before the first-frost date.

When to plant parsnips in Detroit

Semi-hardy crop. CSU says parsnips can be planted as early as 0–2 weeks before the average last frost, in soil of at least 35°F. In Detroit, that's roughly Apr 13–27 going by the typical date, or Apr 27 – May 11 going by the safer date.

When to plant sweet corn in Detroit

Tender crop. CSU's timing for sweet corn is around the average last frost, which is about Apr 27 in Detroit. For only a 1-in-10 chance of a later 32°F night, hold off until May 11. Seeds want soil at 50°F or warmer.

When to plant cucumbers in Detroit

Tender crop. CSU's timing for cucumbers is around the average last frost, which is about Apr 27 in Detroit. For only a 1-in-10 chance of a later 32°F night, hold off until May 11. Seeds want soil at 60°F or warmer. For fall, sow by Aug 3 (Jul 19 to be safe), which is 83 days before the first-frost date.

When to plant eggplant in Detroit

Very tender crop. CSU Extension's rule is to set eggplant out at least 2 weeks after the average last frost. That's about May 11 using the typical date, May 16 as a balanced choice, or May 25 if you go by the safer 10% date. Start seeds indoors Mar 14 – Apr 4, 6–9 weeks before transplanting on May 16. Set out on May 16, eggplant plants would start producing around Jul 15, based on CSU's typical 60 days from transplant to harvest. That leaves 102 days before the typical first frost (Oct 25).

When to plant cantaloupe in Detroit

Very tender crop. CSU Extension says to plant cantaloupe 2+ weeks after the average last frost: about May 11 (typical date), May 16 (balanced) or May 25 (safer 10% date). Wait for soil of at least 60°F.

When to plant watermelon in Detroit

Very tender crop. CSU Extension's rule is to plant watermelon at least 2 weeks after the average last frost. That's about May 11 using the typical date, May 16 as a balanced choice, or May 25 if you go by the safer 10% date. Seeds need soil of at least 60°F.

When to plant winter squash in Detroit

Very tender crop. CSU Extension's rule is to plant winter squash at least 2 weeks after the average last frost. That's about May 11 using the typical date, May 16 as a balanced choice, or May 25 if you go by the safer 10% date. Seeds need soil of at least 60°F.

How these dates are calculated

Timing rules, their sources and where each source applies

Rule	Applies to	Source (scope)
Hardy (cool season): "As early as 2-4 weeks before the date of the average last spring frost."	Onions (dry, from sets), Peas, Lettuce (leaf), Broccoli, Cabbage, Kohlrabi, Green onions, Radishes, Spinach, Turnips	Colorado State University Extension, Vegetable Planting Guide (CMG GardenNotes #720) (written for Colorado; its frost-relative rules are applied to other states' NOAA frost dates and labelled as CSU (Colorado) rules)
Semi-hardy (cool season): "As early as 0-2 weeks before the date of the average last spring frost."	Potatoes, Carrots, Cauliflower, Beets, Swiss chard, Parsnips	Colorado State University Extension, Vegetable Planting Guide (CMG GardenNotes #720) (written for Colorado; its frost-relative rules are applied to other states' NOAA frost dates and labelled as CSU (Colorado) rules)
Tender (warm season): "From seed: around the date of the average last spring frost"	Beans (snap), Summer squash, Sweet corn, Cucumbers	Colorado State University Extension, Vegetable Planting Guide (CMG GardenNotes #720) (written for Colorado; its frost-relative rules are applied to other states' NOAA frost dates and labelled as CSU (Colorado) rules)
Very tender (warm season): "Typically 2+ weeks after the average last spring frost date."	Tomatoes, Peppers, Eggplant, Cantaloupe, Watermelon, Winter squash	Colorado State University Extension, Vegetable Planting Guide (CMG GardenNotes #720) (written for Colorado; its frost-relative rules are applied to other states' NOAA frost dates and labelled as CSU (Colorado) rules)
Start indoors = transplant age (weeks) before the balanced transplant date; days to harvest; minimum soil temperature	Crops with those values in CSU's table	CSU Extension, Vegetable Planting Guide (CMG GardenNotes #720) (written for Colorado; its frost-relative rules are applied to other states' NOAA frost dates and labelled as CSU (Colorado) rules)

Rule	Applies to	Source (scope)
Night-temperature dates: first day the NOAA 1991–2020 daily normal low (DLY-TMIN-NORMAL) is above the CSU transplant threshold or reaches the fruit-set threshold	Tomatoes (above 52°F at transplant, 55°F fruit set), peppers (55°F fruit set)	CSU Growing Tomatoes, CSU Peppers and Eggplants (written for Colorado; generic temperature thresholds applied nationwide with attribution)
Fall count-back: days to harvest + fall factor (14) + frost-tender factor (14)	Peas, Lettuce (leaf), Carrots, Beans (snap), Summer squash, Broccoli, Cabbage, Kohlrabi, Green onions, Radishes, Spinach, Turnips, Beets, Swiss chard, Cucumbers	UNL Extension, Fall Vegetable Gardening (G1343) (written for Nebraska; the count-back formula is applied nationwide with attribution)

CSU states its spring rules relative to “the average last spring frost.” We use the 50% date as that average and also show the 30% and 10% anchors. See the methodology for details and limitations.

FAQ

When should I start seeds indoors in Detroit?

Sow tomatoes indoors Apr 7–21 and peppers Mar 21 – Apr 4. We work back from a balanced (30%-risk) transplant date using CSU's transplant ages.

When should I plant tomatoes outside in Detroit?

About May 26, at every risk level. CSU wants tomatoes out 2+ weeks after the average last frost (that rule alone gives about May 11 here) and nights above 52°F. At Dearborn #2, the average nightly low first rises above 52°F on May 26, later than the frost-rule date, so the night rule sets the date.

What can I plant in Detroit in the fall?

Based on UNL Extension's count-back from the typical first frost (Oct 25), the deadlines are: peas by Aug 7; lettuce (leaf) by Aug 12; carrots by Aug 2; beans (snap) by Jul 29; summer squash by Aug 8; broccoli by Aug 7 (transplants); cabbage by Jul 18 (transplants); kohlrabi by Aug 22; green onions by Aug 12; radishes by Sep 11; spinach by Sep 1; turnips by Aug 22; beets by Aug 12; swiss chard by Aug 12; cucumbers by Aug 3.

Download

- Calendar file (.ics) with frost dates and planting windows for 2027
- Printable PDF of this calendar
-

Frost odds: NOAA NCEI U.S. Climate Normals 1991–2020. Hardiness zones: PRISM Group, Oregon State University, <https://prism.oregonstate.edu>, accessed 2026-10-08. Not the official USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map. How we calculate.

[About](#) · [Contact](#) · [Privacy](#) · Last updated 2026-10-08.