

Table 14.2

VEGETABLE GARDENING AT A GLANCE: HOW TO PLANT AND STORE

Vegetable	Recommended planting dates ^a				Crop type ^b	General planting requirements			Storage conditions		
	North and North Coast	South Coast	Interior Valleys	Desert Valleys		Amount to plant (4 persons)	Distance in inches ^c between plants in rows (cm)	Distance in inches ^c between rows (no beds) (m)	Best temp °F (°C)	Time length (weeks)	How to preserve ^d
artichoke ^e	Aug–Dec	May–Jul	Jul	Sep	C	3–4 plants	48 (122)	60 (1.5)	32 (0)	1–2	freeze whole, can, dry, or freeze hearts
asparagus ^e	Jan–Mar	Jan–Feb	Jan–Feb	Feb–Apr	C	30–40 plants	12 (31)	60 (1.5)	32 (0)	3–4	can, dry, or freeze
beans, lima ^f	May–Jun	May–Jun	May–Jun	—	W	15–25-ft row	6 (15) bush; (4.5–7.5-m row)	30 (0.8) 24 (61) pole	40 (4)	1–3	can, dry, or freeze
beans, snap ^{f,g}	Jul; May–Jun	Mar–Aug	Apr–May; Jul–Aug	Jan–Mar; Aug	W	15–25-ft row (4.5–7.5-m row)	3 (7.5) bush; 24 (61) pole	30 ^h (0.8)	45–55 (7–13)	1–2	can, dry, or freeze
beets ^{f,g}	Feb–Aug	Jan–Sep	Feb–Apr; Aug	Sep–Jan	C	10–15-ft row (3–4.5-m row)	2 (5)	18 ^h (0.5)	32 (0)	3–10	can, dry, or freeze
broccoli ^{e, f,g}	Feb–Apr; Aug–Sep	Jun–Jul; Jan–Feb	Dec–Feb; Jul	Sep	C	6–10-ft row (2–3-m row)	12–18 (30–45)	36 (0.9)	32 (0)	1–2	dry or freeze
brussels sprouts ^e	Feb–May	Jun–Jul	—	—	C	15–20-ft row (4.5–6-m row)	24 (61)	36 (0.9)	32 (0)	3–4	dry or freeze
cabbage ^{e,f}	Jan–Apr; Jul–Sep	Aug–Feb	Jul; Feb	Sep–Nov	C	10–15 plants	24 (61)	36 (0.9)	32 (0)	12–16	dry or freeze
cabbage, Chinese ^f	Jul–Sep	Aug–Oct	Aug	Aug–Nov	C	10–15-ft row (3–4.5-m row)	6 (15)	30 ^h (0.8)	32 (0)	2–3	dry or freeze
cantaloupes and other melons	May	Apr–May	Apr–Jun	Jan–Apr; Jul	W	5–10 hills	12 (30)	72 (1.8)	40–45 (4–7)	2–4	freeze
carrots ^{f,g}	Jan–May; Jul–Aug	Jan–Sep	Aug–Sep; Feb–Apr	Sep–Dec	C	10–25-ft row (3–7.5-m row)	2 (5)	24 ^h (0.6)	32 (0)	16–20	can, dry, or freeze
cauliflower ^e	Jun–Jul;	Jul–Oct; Feb Jan–Feb	Jul–Aug	Aug–Sep	C	10–15 plants	24 (61)	36 (0.9)	32 (0)	2–3	pickle, dry, or freeze
celeriac	Mar–Jun	Mar–Aug	Jun–Aug	—	C	10–15-ft row	4 (10)	24 ^h (0.6)	32 (0)	8–16	can, dry, or freeze
celery ^{e,f} freeze	Mar–Jun	Apr–Aug	Jun–Aug	—	C	20–30-ft row (6–9-m row)	5 (13)	24 ^h (0.6)	32 (0)	8–16	can, dry, or
chard ^f	Feb–May; Aug	Feb–May	Feb; Aug	Sep–Oct	C	3–4 plants	12 (30)	30 (0.8)	32 (0)	1–2	freeze
chayote	—	Apr–May	May–Jun	—	W	1–2 plants	72 (183)	use trellis	—	—	use fresh
chives ^f	Apr	Feb–Apr	Feb–Mar	Sep–Feb	C	1 clump	—	—	—	—	use fresh
corn, sweet ^g	May–Jul	Mar–Jul	Mar–Jul; Aug	Feb–Mar	W	20–30-ft (6–9 m) in 4 rows	12 (30)	36 (0.9)	32 (0)	½–1	can, dry, or freeze
cucumbers	Apr–Jun	Apr–Jun	Apr–Jul	Feb–May; Aug	W	6 plants	24 (61)	48 (1.2)	45–55 (7–13)	1–2	freeze, pickle, or puree
eggplant ^{e,f}	May	Apr–May	Apr–May	Feb–Apr	W	4–6 plants	18 (46)	36 (0.9)	50–60 (10–16)	1–2	dry or freeze
endive ^f	Mar–Jul	Dec–Aug	Jan; Apr; Aug	Sep–Dec	C	10–15-ft row (3–4.5-m row)	10 (25)	24 ^h (0.6)	32 (0)	2–3	use fresh
Florence fennel	Mar–Jul	Feb–Jul	Aug	Sep–Nov	C	10–15-ft row (3–4.5-m row)	4 (10)	30 ^h (0.8)	32 (0)	2–3	can, dry, or freeze
garlic ^f	Oct–Dec	Oct–Dec	Oct–Dec	Sep–Nov	C	10–20-ft row (3–6-m row)	3 (7.5)	18 ^h (0.5)	65–70 (18–21)	24–32	use fresh
kale	Feb–April	Aug–Oct	Aug–Sept	Sept–Nov	C	10-ft row (3-m row)	18–24 (46–61)	24–30 (0.6–0.8)	32 (0)	2	use fresh
kohlrabi ^f	Jul–Aug	Jan; Aug–Sep	Aug	Oct–Nov	C	10–15-ft row (3–4.5-m row)	3 (7.5)	24 (0.6)	32 (0)	2–4	use fresh
leeks	Feb–Apr	Jan–Apr	Jan–Apr	—	C	10-ft row	2 (5)	24 (0.6)	32 (0)	4–12	use fresh
lettuce ^{f,g}	Feb–Aug	Aug–Apr	Aug; Nov–Mar	Sep–Dec	C	10–15-ft row or 5 ft (1.5m) each month	12 (30) head; (3–4.5-m row)	24 (0.6) 6 (0.15) leaf	32 (0)	2–3	use fresh

Table 14.2 cont.

Vegetable	Recommended planting dates ^a				General planting requirements				Storage conditions		
	North and North Coast	South Coast	Interior Valleys	Desert Valleys	Crop type ^b	Amount to plant (4 persons)	Distance in inches ^c between plants in rows (cm)	Distance in inches ^c between rows (no beds) (m)	Best temp °F (°C)	Time length (weeks)	How to preserved ^d
mustard	Apr; Jul–Aug	Aug–Feb	Aug; Apr	Oct–Dec	C	10-ft row (3-m row)	8 (20)	24 ^h (0.6)	32 (0)	1–2	use fresh
okra	May	Apr–May	May	Mar	W	10–20-ft row	18 (46)	36 (0.9)	50–60 (10–16)	—	use fresh
onions, bulb ^f	Jan–Mar	Feb–Mar	Nov–Mar	Oct–Nov	C	30–40-ft row	3 (7.5) (9–12-m row)	18 ^h (0.5)	32–36	12–32 (0–2)	can, dry, or freeze
onions, green ^{e,f,g}	Apr–Jul	All year	Aug–Dec	Sep–Jan	C				85–90 (30–32)		use fresh
parsley ^f	Dec–May	Dec–May	Dec–May	Sep–Oct	C	1–2 plants	8 (20)	24 (0.6)	32 (0)	1–2	dry or freeze
parsnips	May–Jun	Mar–Jul	May–Jul	Sep–Oct	C	10–15-ft row (3–4.5-m row)	3 (7.5)	24 ^h (0.6)	32 (0)	8–16	freeze
peas ^{f,g}	Jan–Apr; Sep–Oct	Aug; Dec–Mar	Sep–Jan; Jan–Feb	Sep–Oct	C	30–40-ft row (9–12-m row)	2 (5)	36 (0.9) bush; 48 (1.2) vine	32 (0)	1–2	can, dry, or freeze
peppers ^{e,f}	May	Apr–May	May	Mar	W	5–10 plants	24 (61)	36 (0.9)	45–55 (7–13)	4–6	can, dry, or freeze
potatoes, sweet ^e	May	Apr–May	Apr–Jun	Feb–Jun	W	50–100-ft row (15–30-m row)	12 (30)	36 (0.9)	55–60 (13–16)	8–24	can, dry, or freeze
potatoes, white	Early: Feb	Feb–May	Feb–Mar; Aug	Dec–Feb	C	50–100-ft row (15–30-m row)	12 (30)	30 (0.8)	40–45 (4–7)	12–20	can, dry, or freeze
pumpkins	May	May–Jun	Apr–Jun	Mar–Jul	W	1–3 plants	48 (122)	72 (1.8)	55 (13)	8–24	can, dry, or freeze
radish ^{f,g}	All year	All year	Sep–Apr	Oct–Mar	C	4-ft row (1.2-m row)	1 (2.5)	6 ^h (0.2)	32 (0)	—	use fresh
rhubarb ^e	Dec–Mar	Dec–Jan	Dec–Feb	—	C	2–3 plants	36 (91)	48 (1.2)	32 (0)	2–3	can or freeze
rutabaga	Jul; Mar–Apr	Jul–Sep; Aug–Mar	Aug	Oct–Dec	C	10–15-ft row (3–4.5-m row)	3 (7.5)	6 ^h (0.2)	32 (0)	8–16	freeze
spinach ^f	Aug–Feb	Aug–Mar	Sep–Jan	Sep–Nov	C	10–20-ft row (3–6-m row)	3 (7.5)	18 ^h (0.5)	32 (0)	1–2	dry or freeze
squash, summer ^f	May–Jul	Apr–Jun	Apr–Jul; Aug–Sep	Feb–Mar;	W	2–4 plants	24 (61)	48 (1.2) (10–13)	50–55	2–3	can, dry, or freeze
squash, winter ^f	May	Apr–Jun	Apr–Jun	Feb–Mar; Aug	W	2–4 plants	24–48 (61–122)	72 (1.8)	55 (13)	8–24	can, dry, or freeze
tomatoes ^{e,f}	May	Apr–Jul 15	Apr–May	Dec–Mar	W	6–10 plants	18–36 (46–91)	36–60 (0.9–1.5)	55–65 (13–18)	1–2	can, dry, or freeze
turnips ^f	Jan, Aug	Jan; Aug–Oct	Feb; Aug	Oct–Feb	C	10–15-ft row (3–4.5-m row)	2 (2.5)	18 ^h (0.5)	32 (0)	8–12	can
watermelons	May–Jun	Apr–Jun	Apr–Jun	Jan–Mar	W	6 plants	60 (152)	72 (1.8)	40 (4)	2–3	freeze

Notes:

^a North and North Coast = Monterey County north; South Coast = San Luis Obispo County south; Interior Valleys = Sacramento, San Joaquin, and similar valleys; Desert Valleys = Imperial and Coachella Valleys. Because the areas shown here are large, planting dates are only approximate, as the climate may vary even in small sections of the state. Contact experienced gardeners in your community and experiment on your own to find more precise dates.

^b C = cool season, W = warm season.

^c Planting distances listed here are standards. Many crops can be spaced more closely for intensive production.

^d Adapted from *Vegetable Gardening Illustrated* 1994.

^e Transplants, shoots, or roots are used for field planting.

^f This crop is suitable for a small garden if compact varieties are grown.

^g In a suitable climate, these crops can be planted more than once per year for a continuous harvest.

^h If grown in beds, plant two rows per bed. Space the beds about 32 to 40 inches (80 to 100 cm) apart and make the tops of the beds 18 inches (45 cm) wide.