

WINTER CROP SCHEDULING GUIDE

Crop	days to maturity	harvest date range	seeding date	Transplant date	notes	Over wintering with protection
Arugula	40	Nov-Jan	Late Aug		Multiple seeding from early Aug on. Protect from flea beetles as weather cools. Keep well watered	
Beets	40	Oct - Dec	Early Aug		Protect from freezing	
Beet greens	45	Mid Oct - Dec	Mid Aug			
Broccoli rabi	35-55	Mid Oct – Dec+	Aug 1 – 15		Varieties have diff. dates	Yes
Broccoli, sprouting	90	Mid Oct-Nov	June 1-15	Early July	Cut small sprouts before flowering to encourage more shoots	Sometimes
Broccoli sprouting	90	Late Mar - April	Mid July	Early Aug	Needs to be protected over winter. Plants may appear to die back but will regrow when weather breaks.	Yes
Brussels sprouts	90-110	Late Oct - Dec	Late May – Early June	Early July	Topping of older varieties encourages sprouts. New (some) varieties don't require topping	Heavy row cover can hold sprouts in the field very late
Collards	55	Nov - Jan	Early Aug+		Protect for early winter. Some will carry over for early spring	Yes
Cabbage	60+	Late Oct – early Dec	early July	Early Aug	Small & pointed head; storage cabbage drop back 30days	
Cabbage	100+	Jan+	Early June	Early July	Overwintering	Yes
Cabbage, Asian	50	Mid Oct+	Mid July	Mid Aug	Protect from flea beetle and keep well watered	
Cauliflower	65	Mid Oct-Dec	Mid July	Mid Aug	Feed early and heavy, protect from freezing	
Chard	50	Mid Oct-Dec+	May+		Can start plants early & keep picked all season or start new plants in July for winter season	Yes
Cutting celery	90	Oct-April	April-May	Late May-June	Keep well watered, feed, protect from freezing	Yes
Endive	45	Mid Oct-Dec	Early Aug		Protect from freezing and snow load.	
Escarole	45	Mid Oct - Dec	Early Aug			
Fennel	80	Mid Oct – Nov	June		Protect from freezing, can store several months	

Crop	days to maturity	harvest date range	seeding date	Transplant date	notes	Over wintering with protection
Asian greens brassicas			Treat all the same		Treat all the same as listed below	
Hon tsai tai	40	Mid Oct – Dec	Direct seed over several weeks. Start mid Aug		Hot dry weather will cause bolting of brassicas & mustards. Keep well watered, protect from flea beetles. Holding into winter allow for harvest over weeks so have several plantings of 1-2 weeks apart.	
Green Lance	45	Mid Oct – Dec			Brassicas will hold over somewhat better than mustards. Mustards will bolt when weather starts warming & daylight lengthens.	
Waido	40	Mid Oct – Dec			For winter harvest, have all plants close to maturity. For overwintering, can have several plantings from mid to full growth. Might get some growth before bolting. Can pick greens with bolting stems just prior to just flowering stage. Wait too long and stems get woody.	
Mizuna	40	Mid Oct – Dec				
Bekana	45	Mid Oct – Dec				
Hong vit	35	Mid Oct – Dec				
Komatsuma	35	Mid Oct – Dec				
Yukima savou	45	Mid Oct – Dec				
Vitamin greens	45	Mid Oct – Dec				
Mibuna	45	Mid Oct – Dec				
Pac choi	50	Mid Oct – Dec				
Tai tsoi	45	Mid Oct – Dec				
Kohlrabi	80	Mid	Mid June July or	Transplant	Some kohlrabi var. are	

Crop	days to maturity	harvest date range	seeding date	Transplant date	notes	Over wintering with protection
		Oct-Dec	earlier if growing Kossack	early to mid July	shorter than 80 days so adjust accordingly. Don't start these too early because the bulb will get pithy.	
Kale	55	Mid Oct – April	Seed for early transplanting for spring production	Transplant out at 4 weeks. For new planting for winter, transplant out by early Aug.	Kale can be grown as mature plants from spring planting or from new plantings in late July-early Aug. Bigger plants with strong roots system and decent protection will over winter easily	Yes
Leeks	90-120	Mid Oct – April	Late winter/early spring	Mid spring	Specific varieties for summer, fall, winter and overwintering. Plant all out in spring for strong root development.	Yes
Scallions	60	Mid Oct – May	Late winter/early spring to late spring	Early spring to early summer	Strong growers throughout the year, will overwinter easily. Hill plants to whiten stems	Yes
Radish	35	Mid Oct – Nov	Early spring through summer		Don't let non-winter varieties stay in the ground too long or it becomes pithy. Row cover to protect against root maggot especially for fall and winter.	
Spinach	40	Mid Oct - May	Sow weekly starting very early spring under cover, then without cover when warm weather stays		Keep watered. Seed up to early Sept for mature plants before winter. Sow later for seedlings to over winter for quick growth under cover in March and April.	Yes
Lettuce	45	Mid Oct – Dec	Seed mid Aug	Set out early Sept.	Keep well watered.	
Lettuce		March – April			For overwintering, seed a week or two later so that you carry over slightly younger plants through the winter.	Yes
Mache	50	Oct - March	Through August		Keep well watered for cooler soils. Plants like cooler weather. Later in the fall, cover for protection	Yes
Miner's lettuce	40	Nov-Jan+	Seed early Sept		Keep watered and later protected for longer season. Will hold over if protected	Yes
Onions,	80-90	Sept - Oct	Late winter to early spring	Early spring to mid spring	Harvest for storage or keep smaller bulbs under cover	Yes

Crop	days to maturity	harvest date range	seeding date	Transplant date	notes	Over wintering with protection
					for quick green onions in early spring	
Radicchio	65	Oct – Nov+	Mid July – august		Keep well watered when hot. Earlier planting will head up for fall harvest. Cover small plants to overwinter and harvest greens and some heads in early spring.	Yes

Late season production starts in mid spring. For a successful crop, start with a detailed plan. Designate an area specific for late season production so that management can take place in one spot rather than all over the farm. This will make cultivation, pest management, using row cover, and harvesting more efficient to manage. Sow extra because you never know if the fall will be a mild one or not. A few extra warm weeks in October, November and even December can mean crops have more time to mature, can go later into storage, or can be protected longer under cover.

Several of the seed companies have segments in their catalogs or even separate catalogs to order late season and over wintering crop varieties. Read their descriptions carefully. Go heavy with tried and true types and experiment with a few new ones to see how they work. Some catalogs are from areas of the country where winters are milder so take their descriptions and planting dates with a grain of salt. We need to have things going at a tough time between hot Augusts and Septembers to cold cloudy wet spells in October. With diminishing sunlight, every cloudy day is like losing several sunny days making reaching maturity that much harder.

Set up plantings into beds and after last cultivation, put up low tunnel or Quick tunnel hoops. This will save time later if an early frost is forecasted and you have to cover things in a hurry. If you are using row cover, you probably still have it laying in the aisles next your early planted beds. Pull it out of there, dry it off, roll it up, and put it where you can get to it next fall. Put your sand bags set aside near the beds covered to protect them from the sun. Fill more to replace any old torn ones.

For kale, Swiss chard, cutting celery, and parsley, it might be a good strategy to get these crops started early, like now, so that you have large ready-to-pick plants going into the fall. Growth often slows down on later season plantings especially when the weather is cloudy. These are big plants that can take up room and if they are not ready to produce, they are costing you money.

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact Robert Hadad, Cornell Vegetable Regional Specialist, rgh26@cornell.edu or 585-739-4065