



# Louisiana Vegetable

## *Planting Guide*



# Louisiana Vegetable Planting Guide

Producing vegetables is a favorite pastime for many people. Homegrown vegetables have better flavor because they are harvested closer to their peak ripeness, which enables the production of more of their natural sugars. Plus, there is complete joy in watching a small seed develop into a delicious treat!

Gardening provides a means of exercise, recreation and therapy, as well as opportunities for many to experience nature. Statements such as “Let me show you my garden” or “I grew that” give a sense of self-satisfaction worth way more than any monetary value.

Home vegetable gardens range in size from a single potted tomato plants to large gardens. Make your garden the size that will meet your needs without becoming a burden.

Plan ahead. Locate the garden in a sunny area. Six to eight hours of sunlight each day is preferred. The fruit-bearing crops, such as tomatoes, peppers and squash, need full sunlight for best production. Otherwise, too much shade results in very little production for those crops. If you only have shady spots to garden in, however, leafy vegetables such as lettuce, broccoli, cabbage and others will tolerate more shade than the root or fruit-bearing crops.

In Louisiana, vegetables can be planted year-round. As soon as one crop finishes bearing, pull it out, re-work the row(s) and plant something else. For example, after harvesting Irish potatoes in May or June, re-work the area and plant peas, okra or sweet potatoes. Successive plantings made a week or two apart provide 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 as a guide to a successful Louisiana garden. The information was developed after considerable research and practical experience. The following comments about each item in the following tables may help you better understand the cultivation requirements of vegetables.

**Planting Dates** – For spring planting, gardeners in Louisiana’s southernmost 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 those in north Louisiana about four weeks later. For example, snap beans may be planted on Feb. 15 in New Orleans but around March 1 in Alexandria and about March 15 in the Shreveport or Monroe areas. Generally, with the spring vegetables, the first planting should be made after the danger of frost is over (March 15 for south Louisiana).

**Seeds/Plants per 100 Feet of Row** – The amount of seeds (or the number of plants) given is the minimum amount required to plant a 100-foot row.

**Depth to Plant Seeds** – This will depend upon the seed size and soil type. Small-seeded crops are planted shallower, and crops with larger seeds 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 seeds may have to be planted a little deeper than normal. Generally speaking, most seeds should be planted two to three times as deep as they are wide.

**Space Between Plants** – Correct spacing between and within rows is important to allow for proper growth, cultivation and efficient use of space. Planting too closely 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. Allow for unplanted rows between watermelon, pumpkin and cantaloupe plantings. In the home garden, you can plant on every other row and space these plants 4-6 feet apart.

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 those in the neighboring row. Remember that yield, quality and pest control normally will be superior if plants are given plenty of room to grow.

**Days Until Harvest** – The number of days from planting until harvest depends on the variety selected, the seasonal temperatures, seasonal rainfall, cultural practices and whether the crop was direct-seeded or transplanted. The number of days indicated in this chart is an average range that 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 parish’s LSU AgCenter Extension Service office.



# Cultural Recommendations

Crop	Planting Dates (Month/Day)		Seeds/Plants per 100 Feet of Row	Depth to Plant Seeds	Space Between Plants	Days Until Harvest
	Spring	Fall				
Beans, Snap, Bush	2/15-5/15	8/10- 9/10	1/2 pound	1/2 inch	2-3 inches	48-55
Beans, Snap, Pole	2/15-5/15	8/10- 8/31	2 ounces	1/2 inch	12 inches	60-66
Beans, Lima, Bush	3/1-5/30	8/1-9/1	1/2 pound	1/2 inch	3-4 inches	60-67
Beans, Lima, Pole	3/1-5/30	8/1-9/1	1/4 pound	1/2 inch	12 inches	77-90
Beets	1/15-2/28	8/15 -10/1	3/4 ounce	1/4 inch	2-4 inches	55-60
Broccoli (Seed)	1/1-1/31	7/15-9/1	1/32 ounce	1/8 inch	18-24 inches	70-90*
Brussels Sprouts (Seed)	—	7/15-9/1	1/32 ounce	1/8 inch	12-15 inches	90*
Cabbage	10/1-1/30	7/1-9/15	1/32 ounce	1/8 inch	12-15 inches	65-75*
Cantaloupes	3/1-8/1		1/8 ounce	1/4 inch	18-24 inches	80-85
Carrots	1/15-2/15	9/1 -11/1	1/4 ounce	1/8 inch	1-2 inches	70-75
Cauliflower	1/15-2/15	7/1-9/1	1/16 ounce	1/8 inch	18-24 inches	55-65*
Celery (Seed)	—	10/1 -11/1	1/64 ounce	1/8 inch	6-8 inches	210
Chard, Swiss	1/15-5/1	8/15-10/30	1/2 ounce	1/4 inch	6-8 inches	45-55
Chinese Cabbage	1/15-2/15	7/15-10/1	1/32 ounce	1/4 inch	12 inches	60-80*
Collards	3/15 -10/1		1/16 ounce	1/8 inch	6-12 inches	75
Corn, Sweet	2/15-5/15	—	3 ounces	1/2 inch	10-12 inches	69-92
Cucumbers	—	3/1-9/1	1/4 ounce	1/4 inch	12-18 inches	50-65
Eggplants (Seeds)	1/15-6/1	—	1/32 ounce	1/8 inch	—	140
Eggplants (Plants)	3/15-7/1	—	50-60 plants	—	18-24 inches	80-85*
Garlic	—	10/1 -11/30	2 pounds	1 inch	4-6 inches	210
Kohlrabi	1/1-3/30	8/15-10/30	1/16 ounce	1/8 inch	6	55-75
Lettuce	1/1-1/31	8/15- 9/30	1/32 ounce	1/8 inch	4-12 inches	45-80
Mustard Greens	8/1-3/15		1/8 ounce	1/8 inch	1-2 inches	35-50
Okra	3/1-8/1		1/2 ounce	1/2 inch	12 inches	60
Onions, Leek (Seeds)	—	9/20-10/15	1/8 ounce	1/8 inch	2-4 inches	135-210
Onions, Leek (Sets)	12/15-1/30	—	300-600 plants	1 inch	2-4 inches	120-150
Peanuts	4/1-6/15	—	1/2 pound	1 inch	4-8 inches	110-120
Peas, English	12/15-1/31	9/1-9/15	2-4 ounces	1/2 inch	2-3 inches	60-70
Peas, Southern	3/1-8/10		4-6 ounces	1/2 inch	4-6 inches	70-80
Peppers, Hot (Seeds)	1/15-5/1	—	1/16 ounce	1/8 inch	—	140
Peppers, Hot (Plants)	3/15-6/15	—	66-100 plants	—	12-18 inches	70*
Peppers, Bell (Seeds)	1/15-2/28	6/5-7/5	1/16 ounce	1/8 inch	—	140-150

# Cultural Recommendations

Crop	Planting Dates (Month/Day)		Seeds/Plants per 100 Feet of Row	Depth to Plant Seeds	Space Between Plants	Days Until Harvest
	Spring	Fall				
Peppers, Bell (Plants)	3/15-5/15	7/15-8/15	66-80 plants	—	15-18 inches	70-80*
Potatoes, Irish	1/20-2/28	8/15-9/10	10-12 pounds	4 inches	12 inches	90-120
Potatoes, Sweet	4/10-7/1	—	100 plants	—	12 inches	90-120*
Pumpkins	—	3/15-9/15	1/2 ounce	1/2 inch	36-60 inches	90-120
Radishes	1/15-3/31	9/1 -11/1	1 ounce	1/8 inch	1 inches	22-28
Rutabagas	—	7/1-8/31	1/16 ounce	1/8 inch	4-8 inches	88
Shallots	—	7/1-2/28	200-300 plants	1 inch	4-8 inches	50
Spinach	—	10/1-2/28	1/4 ounce	1/8 inch	3-6 inches	35-45
Summer Squash	3/1-8/15		1/2 ounce	1/8 inch	36 inches	50-90
Tomatoes (Seeds)	1/1-3/15	6/1-7/1	1/64 ounce	1/8 inch	—	100-115
Tomatoes (Plants)	3/1-5/1	7/1-8/15	50-66 plants	—	16-24 inches	60-75*
Turnips	—	8/1-2/28	1/8 ounce	1/8 inch	2-6 inches	40-50
Watermelons	3/15-8/1	—	1/4 ounce	1/2 inch	48 inches	90-110

\*Days from transplanting



# Recommended Varieties for Louisiana

Beans, Lima (Bush)	Dixie Butterpea , Fordhook 242 (AAS), Henderson Bush, Jackson Wonder, Thorogreen.
Beans, Lima (Pole)	Florida Speckled, King of Garden
Beans, Snap (Bush)	Blue Lake 274, Bronco, Contender, Derby (AAS), Festina, Lynx, Magnum, Provider, Roma II, Royal Burgundy, Strike, Valentino
Beans, Snap (Pole)	Blue Lake, Kentucky Blue (AAS), Kentucky Wonder 191, McCaslin, Rattlesnake (striped), Yardlong Asparagus Bean
Beets	Detroit Dark Red, Kestrel , Red Ace, Ruby Queen
Broccoli	Arcadia, Diplomat, Gypsy, Packman, Premium Crop (AAS), Windsor
Brussels Sprouts	Jade Cross E, Long Island Imp., Royal Marvel
Cabbage	Early maturing: Blue Vantage, Platinum Dynasty, Stonehead
	Later maturing: Cheers, Blue Dynasty, Dynasty, Emblem, Red Vantage Point, Rio Verde, Royal Vantage, Silver Dynasty
	Savoy type: King (AAS)
Cantaloupes	Ambrosia, Aphrodite, Athena, Primo, Vienna
	Honeydew: Earli-dew, Honey Brew, Honey Max, Lambkin AAS, Passport, Temptation
Carrots	Danvers 126, Purple Haze (AAS), Thumbelina
	Deep soils: Apache, Choctaw, Enterprise, Maverick, Navajo.
Cauliflower	Candid Charm, Cumberland, Freedom Snow Crown, Incline, Majestic, Wentworth
Collards	Champion, Flash, Georgia (Creole), Top Pick, Top Bunch, Vates
Corn, Sweet	Sweet: Funks G90 (BC), Gold Queen, Merit, Seneca Horizon (BC), Silver Queen
	Supersweet: Gold Queen, Honey 'N Pearl (AAS) (BC), XTender 372, 270 (BC) or 282 (BC)
	Sugar Enhanced (SE): Ambrosia, Avalon, Bodacious, Delectable, Honey Select (AAS), Incredible, Lancelot (BC), Miracle, Precious Gem (BC), Temptation (BC), White Out
Cucumbers	Slicers: Dasher II, Diva (AAS), Fanfare (AAS), General Lee, Intimidator, Indy, Olympian, Poinsett 76, Rockingham, Speedway, Talladega, Thunder, Salad Bush (AAS), Sweet Slice, Sweet Success (AAS)
	Pickler: Calypso, Vlasstar
Eggplants	Black Beauty, Calliope, Classic, Dusky, Epic, Fairy Tale (AAS), Ichiban, Night Shadow, Santana
Garlic	Creole, Italian
	Large: Elephant Tahiti
Kohlrabi, Grand	Early Purple Vienna, Early White Vienna, Winner
Lettuce	Romaine: Cimarron Red, Cuore, Flashy Trout back, Green Towers, Parris Island Cos, Red Eye, Tall Guzman Elite
	Leaf: New Red Fire, Red Salad Bowl, Nevada, Sierra, New Red Sails, Salad Bowl, Tango, Grand Rapids
	Head: Buttercrunch, Esmeralda, Great Lakes, Ithaca, Maverick
Mustard Greens	Florida Broadleaf, Greenwave, Red Giant, Southern Giant Curled, Savannah, Tendergreen
Okra	Annie Oakley, Cajun Delight (AAS), Clemson Spineless, Cowhorn Burgundy (AAS), Emerald, Lee, North and South
Onions	Red: Red Creole (not sweet), Southern Belle
	White: Candy, Century, Savannah Sweet
	Yellow: Granex 33, Grano 502, Texas Grano 1015 Y
	Scallions: Bunching Star
Peas, English/Garden	Mr. Big (AAS), Novella II, Oregon Sugar Pod, Sugar Ann (AAS), Sugar Snap (AAS)
Peas, Southern (Cowpea)	Blackeye: Magnolia (N), Queen Anne, Royal, California No. 5
	Pinkeye: Mississippi Pinkeye, Pinkeye Purple Hull, QuickPick, Top Pick Pink
	Cream: Elite, Mississippi Cream, Texas No. 8, Top Pick Cream
	Crowder: Colossus, Dixie Lee, Hercules, Knuckle Purple, Mississippi Purple (N), Mississippi Shipper, Mississippi Silver (N), Top Pick, Zipper Cream



# Recommended Varieties for Louisiana

Peppers, Sweet/Mild (Bell)	Bell: Aristotle X3R, Blushing Beauty (AAS), Camelot X3R, Capistrano (OP), Excursion II, Heritage, Jupiter (OP), King Arthur, Lafayette, Lilac, Paladin, Plato, Purple Beauty, Summer Gold, Tequila, Valencia
	Frying Type: Biscayne, Carmen (AAS), Cubanelle, Gypsy (AAS), Tiburon Ancho
Peppers, Hot	Ancho 101, Cayenne, Chilly Chili (AAS), El Rey, Grande, Habanero, Hungarian Wax, Inferno, Jalapeno M, Long Thin Tula, Mariachi (AAS), Mitla, Red Thick Cayenne, Serrano, Super Cayenne (N), Tabasco
Potatoes, Irish	Red Skin: Norland, Red LaSoda, Red Pontiac
	White Skin: Norchip, Kennebec, Yukon Gold
Potatoes, Sweet	Beauregard, Bienville, Centennial, Hernandez
Pumpkins	Atlantic Giant, Autumn Gold (AAS), Baby Bear (AAS), Baby Boo, Big Max, Big Moon, Cinderella, Gold Medal, Gold Rush (AAS), Gooligan, Jack-Be-Little (AAS), Orange Smoothie (AAS), Prankster, Silver Moon, Small Sugar, Sorcerer (AAS), Spirit (AAS)
Shallots	Green: Louisiana Evergreen
	Bulbs: Matador, Prisma
Spinach	Bloomsdale L.S., Melody (AAS), Tye, Unipak 151
	Smooth: Ballet, TigerCat
Squash, Summer	Zucchini: Cash Flow, Declaration II, Gold Rush (AAS), Justice III, Payroll, Senator, Spineless Beauty, Tigress
	Straight Neck: Enterprise, Liberator III, Multipik, Patriot
	Crook Neck: Destiny III, Dixie, Gentry, Medallion, Prelude II
	Scalloped: Patty Green, Peter Pan, Sunburst
Squash, Winter	Bush Delicata, Cream of Crop, Golden Hubbard (OP), Honey Bear, La Estrella, Sweet Mama, Sunshine, Table Ace, Table Queen, Tivoli Spaghetti, Ultra, Vegetable Spaghetti, Waltham Butternut
Tomatoes	Indeterminate: Better Boy (N), Big Beef (AAS) (N), Champion (N), Jet Star, Pink Girl, Sun Gold, Terrific (N)
	Determinate: Bella Rosa, BHN 981 and BHN 876, Carolina Gold, Celebrity (AAS) (N), Crista (N), Floralina, Mountain Fresh Plus, Mountain Spring
	Heat Tolerant: Florida 91, Heatwave II, Phoenix, Solar Set, Sun Leaper, Sun Master, Solar Fire, Talladega
	Others: Cupid, Juliet (AAS), Muriel Roma (N), Picus Roma, Small Fry (AAS), Sweet Million, Sun Gold Cherry
Turnips	Just Right (AAS), Purple Top Shogoin, Tokyo Cross (AAS), White Lady
	Greens: Alamo, Seven Top
Watermelons	Crimson Sweet (OP), Jubilee II (OP), Juliette, La Sweet (OP), Patriot, Regency, Royal Jubilee, Royal Star, Royal Sweet, Sangria, Starbrite, Stars 'N Stripes, Summer Flavor 710 or 720
	Seedless: Cooperstown, Gypsy, Imagination, Krispy Krunch, Liberty, Matrix, Millennium, Millionaire, Revolution
	Ice Box Type: Mickeylee, Sugarbaby, Vanessa
	Yellow: Amarillo, Butter Cup, Desert King, Gold Strike, Tendergold, Tendersweet
N = Nematode Resistant; AAS = All America Selection; OP = Open Pollinated; BC=Bicolor	

# General Fertilizer Recommendations

Crops	Fertilizer or Equivalent per 100 Feet of Row or per 300 Square Feet	Side-dress
Beans (Snap, Lima or Butter), Peas	2-3 pounds 8-24-24	—
	or 2-5 pounds 8-8-8	
Beets, Carrots, Radishes, Turnips, Rutabagas, Kohlrabi	6-7 pounds 8-8-8	*Three to four weeks after planting
	or 4-5 pounds 8-24-24	
Cabbage, Collards, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cauliflower	5-6 pounds 8-8-8	*Three to four weeks after transplanting and again in two to three weeks.
	or 3-4 pounds 8-24-24	
Cantaloupes, Watermelons, Honeydews	5-6 pounds 8-8-8	*Once when vines begin to run
	or 3-4 pounds 8-24-24	
Celery	6-7 pounds 8-8-8	*Once after frost danger has passed and again in three to four weeks.
	or 5 pounds 8-24-24	
Corn (Sweet)	6-7 pounds 8-8-8	*At 1 foot and 3 feet tall
	or 4-5 pounds 8-24-24	
Tomatoes	4-5 pounds 8-24-24	*At first fruit set and every three to four weeks thereafter
	or 6-8 pounds 8-8-8	
Lettuce, Endive, Escarole, Romaine, Fennel (double for head lettuce)	4-5 pounds 8-24-24	*Three to four weeks after transplanting
	or 6-7 pounds 8-8-8	
Onions, Garlic, Shallots	4-5 pounds 8-8-8	*Four to six weeks after transplanting; bulb onions and garlic in March as bulbs begin to swell
	or 3-4 pounds 8-24-24	
Mustard Greens, Parsley, Spinach	4-5 pounds 8-24-24	*Three to four weeks after planting
	or 6-7 pounds 8-8-8	
Okra	2-3 pounds 8-24-24	*After first pod set and every four to six weeks thereafter
	or 3-4 pounds 8-8-8	
Peppers, Eggplants	4-5 pounds 8-24-24	*At first fruit set
	or 5-6 pounds 8-8-8	
Potatoes (Irish)	6-8 pounds 8-8-8	*After plants are 6-10 inches tall
	or 5-6 pounds 8-24-24	
Potatoes (Sweet)	3-4 pounds 8-24-24	—
	or 4-5 pounds 8-8-8	
Squash, Cucumbers, Pumpkins	3-5 pounds 8-24-24	*as plants begin to run and again in three to four weeks
	or 4-6 pounds 8-8-8	

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

\*For 100 feet of row or 300 square feet, apply 3/4 pound ammonium nitrate or 1 pound ammonium sulfate. (If neither ammonium nitrate nor ammonium sulfate is available, 3 pounds of 8-8-8 may be substituted.)

**General fertilizer recommendations** are based on soils of average fertility that have no imbalances of major soil nutrients. A soil analysis will determine 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 first completing a soil analysis that shows the need for lime. You should have your soil tested at least every three years!

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-pound bag of 8-8-8 fertilizer contains 8 percent or 8 pounds of nitrogen (N), 8 percent or 8 pounds of phosphate (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>) and 8 percent or 8 pounds of potash (K<sub>2</sub>O). Fertilizers with different analyses can be substituted for those listed to provide approximately the same amount of plant food, but they will need to be applied at different rates. For example, 6 pounds 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 pounds of 8-8-8, since it contains approximately one-third more plant food (36 pounds per 100-pound bag of 12-12-12 compared to 24 pounds per 100-pound 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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