

Boulder Culinary Gardeners (BCG) Planting Calendar

Front Range Planting Guide for Foothills and Plains
(Mountain Gardens should plan about one month later)

January 15

Seeds indoors: globe artichokes, onions from seeds

Water: If there has been no snow for a month, water newly planted trees at midday when temperatures reach about 40 degrees

February 15

Seeds indoors: broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, celeriac, cardoons, kale, leeks, lettuces (if not direct seeded to be set out April 1)

Trees: prune fruit trees and fruit-bearing shrubs, but especially apple and crabapple trees, suckers and waterspouts from trees

Pest control: plant to rotate crops by avoiding major plant families from sharing the same soil without a three-year hiatus. Flea beetles will lay eggs in the soil where you last planted the brassica (mustard, cabbage) family. A different flea beetle attacks the nightshade (tomato, pepper, potato) family but the pest controls are the same as for the brassicas.

March 15

Seeds outdoors when temperatures reach at least 40 degrees regularly: beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, chard, kohlrabi, arugula, mesclun, lettuce, onions, parsnips, radishes, rutabaga, spinach, turnips, chives, cilantro, dill, fennel, thyme, oregano, salad burnet, sage

Pest control: Place row cover immediately over cabbages, broccoli, Brussels sprouts to defeat the cabbage moth

Roots, tubers and plants: onion sets, seed potatoes, rhubarb burls, shallots, strawberry plants, grapes (mulch grape roots), tarragon

Seeds indoors: eggplants, peppers, basil

Ornamentals: cut back ornamental grasses, transplant shrubs and roses that need to be moved, sow hardy annuals like larkspur, bachelor's button, calendula and violas in the garden, pansy plants but harden first, bare-root perennials and hardy lilies

April 1:

Seeds outdoors: peas and pod peas, French sorrel

Seeds indoors: tomatoes. Tomatoes have a wide span from March 15 for large plants to April 15 for smaller plants. Those who grow large plants strip leaves from the lower half of the vine and plant the tomato vine horizontally. The stripped nodes will root and produce a vigorous root system. Those who prefer a smaller plant will lessen transplant shock when they plant their vine.

April 15

Vegetable transplants: broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower

Pest control: place floating row cover immediately over plants of cabbage family. Also, putting out larger transplants will mitigate flea beetle damage.

Roots: asparagus, potatoes

Seeds indoors: cucumbers, melons, gourds, pumpkins, summer squash, winter squash if not directly seeded in the garden at a later date (these crops may grow just as quickly directly seeded in the garden as they do not like to be transplanted). Also, tender annuals like nasturtium

Ornamentals: move volunteer perennials seedlings, cutback late summer blooming shrubs like buddleia and blue-mist spirea, Russian sage, harden off shrubs and perennials purchased as container plants, prune winter kill from roses, prune lilacs by harvesting blooms and cut out dead stalks

May 1:

Seeds outdoors: sunflowers

Pest control: Soapy dish soap sprayed on aphids

May 15:

Seeds outdoors when temperatures reach 55 degrees regularly: beans, corn, cucumber, gourds, melons, pumpkins, squash, sunflower

Pest control: Place row cover over cucumber, melons, squash, pumpkins to defeat the cucumber beetle remove when flowers appear so insects can pollinate

Plants outdoors: broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, celery

Ornamentals: begin hardening off tender plants like basil, compost and fertilize roses

June 1:

Plants outdoors: cucumber, eggplant, melons, gourds, peppers, pumpkins, winter squash, summer squash, tomato

Pest control: Make tomato collars to repel cutworms (tuna can or cardboard collar placed around tomato plant and pushed into the ground to the depth of one inch)

Weather control: Place walls-of-water around tomato plants or four gallon-sized water jugs around each plant. Row cover close by in case of hail.

Ornamentals: plant tender annuals

July 1:

Ornamentals: divide irises and Oriental poppies

Heat control: tomatoes and peppers may have bruise marks from sun scorching where the sunlight strikes them. Raspberries will have translucent berry cells. Allow plenty of leafy grow on plants.

Consider planting tall sunflowers as shade or stretch shade cloth over scorched plants. Tomatoes will not set fruit when temperatures rise over 85 degrees; shade plants.

August 1:

Pest control: diatomaceous earth for earwigs. Sticky yellow tape for lurking flea beetles (tape with the sticky side up is wrapped around cardboard paddles. Flea beetles are attracted to the color yellow. When a plant is brushed, they will jump to the sticky tape.)

September 1:

Seeds outdoors: beets, lettuces, chard, spinach, radishes, mesclun, mizuna, mustards, turnip tops, for fall crop.

Weather control: These crops may not germinate in excessive heat. Choose a shady location or wait until temperatures fall. Keep row cover close by for hail. Heavier covers for snow or frost.

Ornamentals: plant peonies, divide daylilies and late-blooming perennials

Seeds outdoors: Sow spinach seeds or collards (cover) for early spring (must be kept watered through winter)

Ornamentals: dig tender bulbs to save, plant spring blooming bulbs

October 1:

Plant outdoors: garlic bulbs to be harvested in July, mulch as soon as planted

Seeds outdoors: Cover crop of annual rye, clover, buckwheat or alfalfa in the veggie bed to prevent erosion and add nitrogen for spring

Ornamentals: mulch for winter

Compost: collect leaves, grass clippings and yard waste for next year's compost

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