

## HOW TO FIGURE OUT WHAT TO PLANT?

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Last Spring Frost Date	First Fall Frost Date	TTL # of Days in Growing season

- First you'll want to visit <https://www.almanac.com/gardening/frostdates/zipcode> And look up your zip code to get the most accurate information for your last spring frost date, your first fall frost date, total number of days in your growing season, and your altitude. Your specific altitude could place you in a micro climate. This would mean you could possibly have very different frost dates & overall climate than someone just down below you in a valley.
- Your LAST SPRING FROST DATE helps you determine when it is safe to start seeds or transplant things outdoors into the garden.
- Your FIRST FALL FROST DATE helps you determine how much time you have left to safely plant things out doors without them being affected by frost.
- By knowing these two dates, the time in between them helps you determine your total number of days within your growing season. This information is extremely valuable in knowing if you have enough time within your growing season to grow certain plants & varieties of plants.
- You will also want to visit <https://statesummaries.ncics.org/> to evaluate & compare the average number of hot days (above 100 degrees) to average number of cold nights (0 & below). This will help you determine if you should look more into cold hardy varieties of annuals or heat tolerant varieties of annuals. Some plants thrive more in a warmer climate and some plants thrive more in a cooler climate.
- Now compile your wish list of plants. Keep in mind that if you are a beginner, it's always best to start with plants you & your family will consume.
- Once you've compiled your wish list of plants it's time to do some research on a few things. Preferred temps or time of year to plant whether spring, summer or fall & days to maturity or harvest. This helps you in determining when to start seeds which we will cover next with SEED STARTING. The days to maturity or days to harvest is what helps you determine if you have enough time in your total growing season to grow & harvest a certain plant.
- Most seed companies will provide you with key information on their seeds as far as variety, when to plant, days to harvest, and the best climate to grow the plant in. This is

often also featured on the back of seed packets. If it is not, no worries as you can do a general internet search of any variety of plant to find the best planting times as far as temperature or time of year.

- Check out the chart on the next page to help you determine, gather, & evaluate this information.







## SQUARE FOOT GARDENING SPRING/FALL PLANTS

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<b>PLANT NAME</b>	<b>PLANTS/SEEDS/BULBS PER SQFT</b>
LEAF LETTUCE	4-6 PER SQFT
HEAD LETTUCE	1-2 PER SQFT
CABBAGE	1 PER SQFT
TURNIP, MUSTARD, COLLARD GREENS	6-9 PER SQFT
BROCCOLI	1 PER SQFT
CAULIFLOWER	1 PER SQFT
BRUSSEL SPROUTS	1 PER SQFT
CARROTS	9-16 PER SQFT
CELERY	4 PER SQFT
CHARD	4 PER SQFT
ONIONS BULB	4-6 PER SQFT
GARLIC	6-9 PER SQFT
LEEKs	6-9 PER SQFT
BEETS	9 PER SQFT
RADISHES	9-16 PER SQFT
PEAS	4-9 PER SQFT
SPINACH	6-9 PER SQFT
KALE	1 PER SQFT
POTATOES	2-4 PER SQFT
BASIL	1-2 PER SQFT
SAGE	1 PR SQ FT
CILANTRO	1-9 PER SQFT
PARSLEY	2-4 PER SQFT

## SQUARE FOOT GARDENING SUMMER PLANTS

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<b>PLANT NAME</b>	<b>PLANTS/SEEDS/BULBS PER SQFT</b>
CORN	2-4 PER SQFT
CUCUMBERS	1-2 PER SQFT
BUSH SQUASH	1 PER SQFT
VINE SQUASH	1 PER 4 SQFT
TOMATOES	1 PER SQFT OR EVEN 1 PER 2-3 SQFT
PEPPERS	1 PER SQFT
EGG PLANT	1 PER SQFT
WATERMELON	1 PER 2-4 SQFT
CANTALOUPE	1 PER 2-4 SQFT
OKRA	1-2 PER SQFT
PUMPKINS	1 PER 2-4 SQFT
GOURDS	1 PER 2-4 SQFT
SWEET POTATOES	1 PER 2 SQFT
BUSH BEANS	4-9 PER SQFT
POLE BEANS	4-9 PER SQFT
FRENCH MARIGOLDS	1 PER SQFT
ZINNIAS	2-4 PER SQFT
NASTURTIUMS	1-3 PER SQFT
SUNFLOWERS	1-4 PER SQFT



## PLANT FAMILIES

