

SUNDAYS

Spring 2020 seed starting chart

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It might not feel like it, especially after a long winter of mostly below-freezing

temperatures, but spring *will* get here eventually, and with it comes planting season.

The most important thing to know about the seed chart you'll find here is it's a recommendation based on the average out-

door planting day of June 1. In recent years, thanks to a warming planet, you've been able to plant outdoors before June 1. Other years, it's been a few days after June 1. Regardless, the seed planting times here are not a

hard and fast rule — a day or two off, even a week or so — won't make that much of a difference.

One big thing to keep in mind come transplanting time is soil temperature. Raised beds will be warmer than in-ground

planting, so take that into consideration when transplant time comes later this spring.

Until then, it's time to dig out the grow lights and seeds to get your garden growing early this year.

FLOWER SEED SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 23

(14 weeks to setting out)
Tuberous Begonias

MARCH 9

(12 weeks to setting out)
Geraniums
Perk up last year's Fuchsias, Hydrangeas, Roses
Petunias for baskets
Wax Begonias

MARCH 16

(11 weeks to setting out)
Dahlia tubers
Fibrous Begonias
Gazania
Lobelia
Portulaca

MARCH 23

(10 weeks to setting out)
Impatiens
Rhodochiton (Purple Bell Vine)

MARCH 30

(9 weeks to setting out)
Anemones
Coleus
Lupine
Pansy and members of the Viola family
Petunias
Phlox
Ranunculus
Snapdragons

APRIL 6

(8 weeks to setting out)
Ageratum (Floss Flower)
Asperula
Bells of Ireland
Carnations
Daisies
Delphiniums
Dusty Miller
Feverfew
Godetia
Kochia
Malope
Malva
Poppies (for early bloom)
Salpiglossis (Velvet Flower, Painted Tongue)
Statice
Verbena

APRIL 13

(7 weeks to setting out)
Alyssum
Asarina
Asters
Black-eyed Susan Vine
Calendula
Candytuft
Celosia
Nemesia
Nicotiana (Flowering tobacco)
Potentilla
Salvia
Schizanthus (Butterfly flower)

APRIL 20

(6 weeks to setting out)
Baby's Breath
Dianthus
Forget-me-nots
Lavatera
Linaria (Toadflax)
Marigold
Mimulus (Monkey Flower)
Rudbeckia
Strawflowers
Sweet Peas
Sweet William
Ursina

APRIL 27

(5 weeks to setting out)
Bachelor Buttons (for early bloom)
Canary Bird Vine
Clarkia
Cosmos
Gypsophila
Hollyhocks
Larkspur
Morning Glory
Nasturtiums (for early bloom)
Stock
Zinnias

MAY 4

(4 weeks to setting out)
Gladioli bulbs
Mignonette
Nemophila
Scarlet Runner Beans (for early bloom)
Sunflowers

MAY 18 TO 31

Direct Seed:
Bachelor Buttons
Nasturtiums
Poppies
Scarlet Runner Beans

VEGETABLE AND HERB SEED SCHEDULE



METRO CREATIVE IMAGES

MARCH 16

(11 weeks to setting out)
Artichokes
Celery
Chives
Cilantro
Leeks
Peppers (for greenhouse in mid May)
Rosemary
Tomato (for greenhouse in mid May)

MARCH 23

(10 weeks to setting out)
Anise Hyssop
Arugula
Eggplant (for greenhouse in mid May)
Mint
Onion seeds (not sets)
Peppers (for outdoors)
Thyme (common, creeping & lemon)

MARCH 30

(9 weeks to setting out)
Bee Balm
Lovage
O-S Cross Cabbage
Oregano
Parsley (curled & flat leaf)
Sweet Marjoram
Tomato (outdoor)

APRIL 6

(8 weeks to setting out)
Cucumber (for greenhouse in mid May)
Eggplant (for outdoor)
Lemon Balm
Okra
Sage
Savory, Summer
Savory, Winter

APRIL 13

(7 weeks to setting out)
Basil (for early harvest)
Borage
Brussel sprouts
Dill (for early harvest)
Fennel
Kale
Mitsuba
Oregano (for early harvest)
Sorrel

APRIL 20

(6 weeks to setting out)
Broccoli
Cabbage
Cauliflower
Cucumber (outdoor)
Kohlrabi
Lettuce, head
Squash, Summer (including zucchini)
Squash, Winter (including pumpkins)
Swiss Chard

APRIL 27

(5 weeks to setting out)
Corn (if you want to transplant and not direct seed)
Lettuce, Leaf

MAY 18 TO MEMORIAL DAY

(Direct seed, depending upon weather)
Arugula
Beans
Beets
Cabbage, Nabana Flowering
Carrots
Chervil
Cilantro
Corn (under plastic)
Dill
Fennel
Kale
Lettuce, Leaf
Mesclun
Onion sets
Oregano
Pak choy
Parsnip
Peas
Potato
Radish
Rutabagas
Spinach
Swiss Chard
Turnips



METRO CREATIVE IMAGES



DEEDEE HAMMOND/NEWS-MINER

ALASKA SCIENCE FORUM

Heading farther north than she has ever been for the science

By Ned Rozell

On the cusp of Interior Alaska's springtime, Melinda Webster will not experience it this year. She'll miss most of summer, too. Webster will soon head north of Earth's land masses, to spend the next half year cradled in ice.

Webster, a sea-ice specialist at the University of Alaska Fairbanks Geophysical Institute, will in a few days board flights that will carry her across the globe to Svalbard. From there, she will carry her bag upon a 35-passenger aircraft. She will then fly more than 500 miles northward before landing on an ice runway and riding a snowmachine

to the research vessel Polarstern, an icebreaker that has been twirling in the sea ice of the Arctic Ocean since last October.

Webster came to Interior Alaska in November 2019 to take a job with the Geophysical Institute from her previous job at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland. That move got her a lot closer to her specialty: sea ice, which forms on top of the ocean in very cold places. Soon, the ephemeral substance that is so influential in global weather will surround her.

Because of this, Webster will miss the 80-degree air of middle-Alaska summer after enduring a cold winter. But she doesn't mind.

"This is really a once-in-a-gener-

ation experience," she said.

Webster will be one of 600 researchers from 20 countries who will over the months shuttle northward to live on the Polarstern, an icebreaker owned by the Alfred Wegener Institute in Bremerhaven, Germany.

The MOSAiC expedition ship, now drifting about 100 miles from the geographic North Pole, has already hosted Fairbanks sea-ice experts Rob Rember and Marc Oggier of UAF's International Arctic Research Center. They worked with the aid of floodlights in total darkness on the ice for seven hours each day from October through the



Melinda Webster, a sea-ice specialist, is about to spend the next five months on a ship frozen into an ice floe on the top of the world. PHOTO COURTESY MELINDA WEBSTER