



METRO CREATIVE IMAGES

## GARDENING

## Time to start thinking about gardens

This seed starting chart is a general guideline based on our traditional Memorial Day weekend transplanting time (the holiday falls on May 29 this year). However, keep in mind that the transplant date for your particular plot may vary slightly, depending on your location, slope, and shading.



Linden Staciokas

And, with several recent years where May's temperatures have been exceptionally warm, more Interior gardeners are transplanting May 15 or even earlier.

No matter when you intend to transplant, you can still use this chart. To find the right date for seed starting, locate the vegetable or flower you want to start and count back however many weeks are listed in parentheses. For example,

artichokes that will be set in the garden at the end of May should be started around March 20. If you intend to plant them outside on May 15, counting back the 10 weeks listed in parentheses will bring you to March 6th as a good seed starting date for a mid-May transplanting.

It is important to keep in mind that spring soil temperatures will be much colder than the air temperatures. You may be more than ready to stick your hands in the soil in early May, but putting transplants out too early can cause them to set back rather than flourish; the same varieties put out a week later, when the ground has warmed up more, can end up outpacing the plants that went into the garden a week earlier.

If you have not followed my urgings in previous years to develop your own seed starting chart, one designed with your gardening

conditions in mind, resolve to do so this year. You will find it far more useful in the long run than the generic charts put out by me or local nurseries. It is not difficult, nor does it take a lot of time: if at transplant time you feel a flower, vegetable or herb is smaller or larger than is optimum, note that and change this chart so that next year you remember to sow the seeds of that variety earlier or later.

Often this happens because a specific variety of a plants germinates sooner or grows faster than average; since specific transplant dates depend on averages, not every variety will perform identically. For example, one of the varieties of onions I used to start from seed sprang to life much earlier and got much taller than the other types of onions I planted, so I learned to sow them later because

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| SUNDAY  | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| MARCH 1 | 2      | 3       | 4         |          |        |          |
| 5       | 6      | 7       | 8         | 9        | 10     | 11       |
| 12      | 13     | 14      | 15        | 16       | 17     | 18       |
| 19      | 20     | 21      | 22        | 23       | 24     | 25       |
| 26      | 27     | 28      | 29        | 30       | 31     |          |

| SUNDAY  | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| APRIL 1 | 2      | 3       | 4         | 5        | 6      | 7        |
| 9       | 10     | 11      | 12        | 13       | 14     | 15       |
| 16      | 17     | 18      | 19        | 20       | 21     | 22       |
| 23      | 24     | 25      | 26        | 27       | 28     | 29       |

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| MAY 1  | 2      | 3       | 4         | 5        | 6      |          |
| 7      | 8      | 9       | 10        | 11       | 12     | 13       |
| 14     | 15     | 16      | 17        | 18       | 19     | 20       |
| 21     | 22     | 23      | 24        | 25       | 26     | 27       |
| 28     | 29     | 30      | 31        | 1        | 2      | 3        |

## VEGETABLES

## March 19

(10 weeks to setting out)

Artichokes  
Celery  
Chives  
Cilantro  
Leeks  
Parsley  
Peppers (for greenhouse in mid May)  
Rosemary  
Tomato (for greenhouse in mid May)

## March 26

(9 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)

## April 2

(8 weeks to setting out)

Bee Balm  
Lavage  
O-S Cross Cabbage  
Oregano  
Parsley (curled & flat leaf)  
Sweet Marjoram  
Tomato (outdoor)

## April 9

(7 weeks to setting out)

Cucumber (for greenhouse in mid May)  
Eggplant (for outdoor)  
Lemon Balm  
Okra  
Sage  
Savory, Summer  
Savory, Winter

## April 16

(6 weeks to setting out)

Basil  
Borage  
Brussel sprouts  
Dill  
Fennel  
Kale  
Mitsuba  
Oregano  
Sorrel

## April 23

(5 weeks to setting out)

Broccoli  
Cabbage  
Cauliflower  
Cucumber (outdoor)  
Kohlrabi  
Lettuce, head  
Squash, Summer (including zucchini)

Squash, Winter (including pumpkins)  
Swiss Chard

## April 30

(4 weeks to setting out)

(if you want to transplant, not direct seed)

Lettuce, Leaf

## May 14 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 SetsParsnip  
PeasPotato  
RadishRutabagas  
Spinach

Swiss Chard

Black-eyed Susan Vine  
Calendula  
CandytuftCelosia  
Nemesia  
Nicotiana (Flowering tobacco)Potentilla  
Salvia  
Schizanthus (Butterfly flower)

April 9

(7 weeks to setting out)

Alyssum  
Asarina  
AstersFeverfew  
Godetia  
KochiaLavatera  
Linaria (Toadflax)  
MarigoldMalope  
Malva  
Poppies (for early bloom)  
Salpiglossis (Velvet Flower, Painted Tongue)  
Statice  
VerbenaBaby's Breath  
Dianthus  
Forget-me-nots  
Lavatera  
Linaria (Toadflax)  
MarigoldPotentilla  
Rudbeckia  
Strawflowers  
Sweet Peas  
Sweet William  
UrsinaBachelor Buttons (for early bloom)  
Canary Bird Vine  
Clarkia  
Cosmos  
GypsophilaCelosia  
Nemesia  
Nicotiana (Flowering tobacco)Hollyhocks  
Larkspur  
Morning Glory  
Nasturtiums (for early bloom)  
Stock  
Zinnias

April 16

(6 weeks to setting out)

Bachelor Buttons  
Dianthus  
Forget-me-nots  
Lavatera  
Linaria (Toadflax)  
MarigoldPotentilla  
Rudbeckia  
Strawflowers  
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Morning Glory  
Nasturtiums (for early bloom)  
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(4 weeks to setting out)

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Canary Bird Vine  
Clarkia  
Cosmos  
GypsophilaCelosia  
Nemesia  
Nicotiana (Flowering tobacco)Hollyhocks  
Larkspur  
Morning Glory  
Nasturtiums (for early bloom)  
Stock  
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(4 weeks to setting out)

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Canary Bird Vine  
Clarkia  
Cosmos  
GypsophilaCelosia  
Nemesia  
Nicotiana (Flowering tobacco)Hollyhocks  
Larkspur  
Morning Glory  
Nasturtiums (for early bloom)  
Stock  
Zinnias

April 30

(2 weeks to go) Direct Seed

Bachelor Buttons  
NasturtiumsCelosia  
Nemesia  
Nicotiana (Flowering tobacco)Poppies  
Scarlet Runner BeansScarlet Runner Beans  
(for early bloom)

Sunflowers

Sunflowers

May 14 to 28

(2 weeks to go) Direct Seed

Bachelor Buttons  
Nasturtiums

Scarlet Runner Beans

