

Grand Junction, CO Vegetable Planting Calendar

Planting dates for 27 vegetables in Grand Junction, for the 2027 season, based on 1991–2020 normals. Each date starts from the 32°F frost odds at Grand Junction Walker Field (3.5 mi NNE) and is shifted by a CSU Extension timing rule. Every rule and its source is listed below.

Frost anchors: typical last frost Apr 28 (50%), balanced May 3 (30%), safe May 14 (10%); typical first frost Oct 16. Station Grand Junction Walker Field (USW00023066), confidence High. USDA zone 6b–7a (2023). Grand Junction frost dates & growing zone.

Spring planting dates

“Plant out” means transplanting for crops started indoors and sowing or planting directly in the garden for the others. Each column applies CSU Extension's timing rule to a different last-frost anchor: **aggressive** = typical date (Apr 28, 50% risk), **balanced** = May 3 (30%), **safe** = May 14 (10%). For hardy crops the cell shows the CSU “as early as” window.

Grand Junction spring planting (2027 season)

Crop	How	Start indoors	Plant out: aggressive (50%)	Balanced (30%)	Safe (10%)	Min. soil temp
Tomatoes Very tender (warm season)	transplant	Apr 13–27	Jun 1	Jun 1	Jun 1	50°F
Peppers Very tender (warm season)	transplant	Mar 22 – Apr 5	May 12	May 17	May 28	60°F
Potatoes Semi-hardy (cool season)	plant (seed pieces)	–	Apr 14–28	Apr 19 – May 3	Apr 30 – May 14	45°F
Onions (dry, from sets) Hardy (cool season)	plant sets	–	Mar 31 – Apr 14	Apr 5–19	Apr 16–30	35°F
Peas Hardy (cool season)	direct sow	–	Mar 31 – Apr 14	Apr 5–19	Apr 16–30	40°F
Lettuce (leaf) Hardy (cool season)	direct sow	–	Mar 31 – Apr 14	Apr 5–19	Apr 16–30	35°F
Carrots Semi-hardy (cool season)	direct sow	–	Apr 14–28	Apr 19 – May 3	Apr 30 – May 14	40°F
Beans (snap) Tender (warm season)	direct sow	–	Apr 28	May 3	May 14	55°F
Summer squash Tender (warm season)	direct sow	–	Apr 28	May 3	May 14	60°F

Crop	How	Start indoors	Plant out: aggressive (50%)	Balanced (30%)	Safe (10%)	Min. soil temp
Broccoli Hardy (cool season)	transplant	Feb 15 – Mar 1	Mar 31 – Apr 14	Apr 5–19	Apr 16–30	40°F
Cabbage Hardy (cool season)	transplant	Feb 15 – Mar 1	Mar 31 – Apr 14	Apr 5–19	Apr 16–30	40°F
Cauliflower Semi-hardy (cool season)	transplant	Mar 1–15	Apr 14–28	Apr 19 – May 3	Apr 30 – May 14	40°F
Kohlrabi Hardy (cool season)	direct sow	–	Mar 31 – Apr 14	Apr 5–19	Apr 16–30	40°F
Green onions Hardy (cool season)	direct sow	–	Mar 31 – Apr 14	Apr 5–19	Apr 16–30	35°F
Radishes Hardy (cool season)	direct sow	–	Mar 31 – Apr 14	Apr 5–19	Apr 16–30	40°F
Spinach Hardy (cool season)	direct sow	–	Mar 31 – Apr 14	Apr 5–19	Apr 16–30	40°F
Turnips Hardy (cool season)	direct sow	–	Mar 31 – Apr 14	Apr 5–19	Apr 16–30	40°F
Beets Semi-hardy (cool season)	direct sow	–	Apr 14–28	Apr 19 – May 3	Apr 30 – May 14	40°F
Swiss chard Semi-hardy (cool season)	direct sow	–	Apr 14–28	Apr 19 – May 3	Apr 30 – May 14	40°F

Crop	How	Start indoors	Plant out: aggressive (50%)	Balanced (30%)	Safe (10%)	Min. soil temp
Parsnips Semi-hardy (cool season)	direct sow	–	Apr 14–28	Apr 19 – May 3	Apr 30 – May 14	35°F
Sweet corn Tender (warm season)	direct sow	–	Apr 28	May 3	May 14	50°F
Cucumbers Tender (warm season)	direct sow	–	Apr 28	May 3	May 14	60°F
Eggplant Very tender (warm season)	transplant	Mar 15 – Apr 5	May 12	May 17	May 28	60°F
Cantaloupe Very tender (warm season)	direct sow	–	May 12	May 17	May 28	60°F
Watermelon Very tender (warm season)	direct sow	–	May 12	May 17	May 28	60°F
Winter squash Very tender (warm season)	direct sow	–	May 12	May 17	May 28	60°F

A soil thermometer helps here. CSU recommends checking soil temperature at 4 inches (6 inches for beans) before sowing. NOAA doesn't publish soil-temperature normals, so instead of a date, each crop shows CSU's minimum soil temperature.

Fall planting dates

Latest dates for a fall harvest, using the University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension count-back formula: days to harvest (CSU) + 14-day fall factor + 14-day frost-tender factor for frost-sensitive crops, counted back from the first-frost date. For transplanted crops (CSU days are from transplant) the result is the latest transplant date; seeds go in CSU's transplant-age weeks earlier. We add no harvest period, so these dates give you a first harvest by the first frost, not a long harvest.

Grand Junction fall planting

Crop	How	Days counted back	By (typical first frost Oct 16)	By (early first frost Oct 3)
Peas	sow	79	Jul 29	Jul 16
Lettuce (leaf)	sow	74	Aug 3	Jul 21
Carrots	sow	84	Jul 24	Jul 11
Beans (snap)	sow	88 (frost-tender)	Jul 20	Jul 7
Summer squash	sow	78 (frost-tender)	Jul 30	Jul 17
Broccoli	transplant (start seeds Jun 10–24)	79	Jul 29	Jul 16
Cabbage	transplant (start seeds May 21 – Jun 4)	99	Jul 9	Jun 26
Kohlrabi	sow	64	Aug 13	Jul 31
Green onions	sow	74	Aug 3	Jul 21
Radishes	sow	44	Sep 2	Aug 20
Spinach	sow	54	Aug 23	Aug 10
Turnips	sow	64	Aug 13	Jul 31
Beets	sow	74	Aug 3	Jul 21
Swiss chard	sow	74	Aug 3	Jul 21
Cucumbers	sow	83 (frost-tender)	Jul 25	Jul 12
Garlic	plant cloves	fixed window (CSU, Colorado)	Plant Oct 1–14	

Month-by-month: what to plant in Grand Junction

What to plant in Grand Junction in February

- Start broccoli seeds indoors (Feb 15 – Mar 1)
- Start cabbage seeds indoors (Feb 15 – Mar 1)

What to plant in Grand Junction in March

- Start cauliflower seeds indoors (Mar 1–15)
- Start eggplant seeds indoors (Mar 15 – Apr 5)
- Start pepper seeds indoors (Mar 22 – Apr 5)
- Onions (dry, from sets): plant sets outdoors (Mar 31 – Apr 30)
- Peas: direct sow outdoors (Mar 31 – Apr 30)
- Lettuce (leaf): direct sow outdoors (Mar 31 – Apr 30)
- Broccoli: transplant outdoors (Mar 31 – Apr 30)
- Cabbage: transplant outdoors (Mar 31 – Apr 30)
- Kohlrabi: direct sow outdoors (Mar 31 – Apr 30)
- Green onions: direct sow outdoors (Mar 31 – Apr 30)
- Radishes: direct sow outdoors (Mar 31 – Apr 30)
- Spinach: direct sow outdoors (Mar 31 – Apr 30)
- Turnips: direct sow outdoors (Mar 31 – Apr 30)
- Start broccoli seeds indoors (Feb 15 – Mar 1)
- Start cabbage seeds indoors (Feb 15 – Mar 1)

What to plant in Grand Junction in April

- Start tomato seeds indoors (Apr 13–27)
- Potatoes: plant (seed pieces) outdoors (Apr 14 – May 14)
- Carrots: direct sow outdoors (Apr 14 – May 14)
- Cauliflower: transplant outdoors (Apr 14 – May 14)
- Beets: direct sow outdoors (Apr 14 – May 14)
- Swiss chard: direct sow outdoors (Apr 14 – May 14)
- Parsnips: direct sow outdoors (Apr 14 – May 14)
- Beans (snap): direct sow outdoors (Apr 28 – May 14)
- Summer squash: direct sow outdoors (Apr 28 – May 14)
- Sweet corn: direct sow outdoors (Apr 28 – May 14)
- Cucumbers: direct sow outdoors (Apr 28 – May 14)
- Start eggplant seeds indoors (Mar 15 – Apr 5)
- Start pepper seeds indoors (Mar 22 – Apr 5)
- Onions (dry, from sets): plant sets outdoors (Mar 31 – Apr 30)
- Peas: direct sow outdoors (Mar 31 – Apr 30)
- Lettuce (leaf): direct sow outdoors (Mar 31 – Apr 30)
- Broccoli: transplant outdoors (Mar 31 – Apr 30)
- Cabbage: transplant outdoors (Mar 31 – Apr 30)
- Kohlrabi: direct sow outdoors (Mar 31 – Apr 30)
- Green onions: direct sow outdoors (Mar 31 – Apr 30)
- Radishes: direct sow outdoors (Mar 31 – Apr 30)
- Spinach: direct sow outdoors (Mar 31 – Apr 30)

- Turnips: direct sow outdoors (Mar 31 – Apr 30)

What to plant in Grand Junction in May

- Peppers: transplant outdoors (May 12–28)
- Eggplant: transplant outdoors (May 12–28)
- Cantaloupe: direct sow outdoors (May 12–28)
- Watermelon: direct sow outdoors (May 12–28)
- Winter squash: direct sow outdoors (May 12–28)
- Start cabbage seeds indoors for a fall crop (May 21 – Jun 4)
- Potatoes: plant (seed pieces) outdoors (Apr 14 – May 14)
- Carrots: direct sow outdoors (Apr 14 – May 14)
- Cauliflower: transplant outdoors (Apr 14 – May 14)
- Beets: direct sow outdoors (Apr 14 – May 14)
- Swiss chard: direct sow outdoors (Apr 14 – May 14)
- Parsnips: direct sow outdoors (Apr 14 – May 14)
- Beans (snap): direct sow outdoors (Apr 28 – May 14)
- Summer squash: direct sow outdoors (Apr 28 – May 14)
- Sweet corn: direct sow outdoors (Apr 28 – May 14)
- Cucumbers: direct sow outdoors (Apr 28 – May 14)

What to plant in Grand Junction in June

- Tomatoes: transplant outdoors (Jun 1)
- Start broccoli seeds indoors for a fall crop (Jun 10–24)
- Start cabbage seeds indoors for a fall crop (May 21 – Jun 4)

What to plant in Grand Junction in July

- Last day to set out cabbage transplants for a fall harvest (by Jul 9)
- Last day to sow beans (snap) for a fall harvest (by Jul 20)
- Last day to sow carrots for a fall harvest (by Jul 24)
- Last day to sow cucumbers for a fall harvest (by Jul 25)
- Last day to sow peas for a fall harvest (by Jul 29)
- Last day to set out broccoli transplants for a fall harvest (by Jul 29)
- Last day to sow summer squash for a fall harvest (by Jul 30)

What to plant in Grand Junction in August

- Last day to sow lettuce (leaf) for a fall harvest (by Aug 3)
- Last day to sow green onions for a fall harvest (by Aug 3)
- Last day to sow beets for a fall harvest (by Aug 3)

- Last day to sow swiss chard for a fall harvest (by Aug 3)
- Last day to sow kohlrabi for a fall harvest (by Aug 13)
- Last day to sow turnips for a fall harvest (by Aug 13)
- Last day to sow spinach for a fall harvest (by Aug 23)

What to plant in Grand Junction in September

- Last day to sow radishes for a fall harvest (by Sep 2)

What to plant in Grand Junction in October

- Plant garlic cloves (Oct 1–14)

Crop-by-crop notes

When to plant tomatoes in Grand Junction

Very tender crop. Set tomatoes out about Jun 1, whichever risk level you go by. That date comes from CSU Extension's night rule (nights above 52°F): the average nightly low at Grand Junction Walker Field first rises above 52°F on Jun 1. CSU's other rule, at least 2 weeks after the average last frost, would allow about May 12 in Grand Junction. Sow seeds indoors Apr 13–27, 5–7 weeks before transplanting on Jun 1. Below 55°F at night, fruit set suffers (CSU). At Grand Junction Walker Field, the normal low reaches 55°F on Jun 10. CSU's typical time from transplant to harvest for tomato plants is 65 days. Set out on Jun 1, they would start producing around Aug 5, 72 days before the typical first frost (Oct 16).

When to plant peppers in Grand Junction

Very tender crop. Following CSU Extension's rule (2+ weeks after the average last frost), set peppers out around May 12 with the typical date, May 17 for a balanced choice, or May 28 with the safer 10% date. Sow seeds indoors Mar 22 – Apr 5, 6–8 weeks before transplanting on May 17. Fruit set suffers when nights drop below 55°F (CSU). The normal low at Grand Junction Walker Field reaches 55°F on Jun 10. CSU's typical time from transplant to harvest for pepper plants is 70 days. Set out on May 17, they would start producing around Jul 26, 82 days before the typical first frost (Oct 16).

When to plant potatoes in Grand Junction

Semi-hardy crop. Per CSU, potatoes can go in as early as 0–2 weeks before the average last frost: roughly Apr 14–28 in Grand Junction (typical date) or Apr 30 – May 14 (safer date). The soil should be at least 45°F.

When to plant onions (dry, from sets) in Grand Junction

Hardy crop. CSU says onions (dry, from sets) can go in as early as 2–4 weeks before the average last frost: roughly Mar 31 – Apr 14 in Grand Junction using the typical date, or Apr 16–30 using the safer one. Wait until the soil can be worked and is at least 35°F.

When to plant peas in Grand Junction

Hardy crop. CSU says peas can go in as early as 2–4 weeks before the average last frost: roughly Mar 31 – Apr 14 in Grand Junction using the typical date, or Apr 16–30 using the safer one. Wait until the soil can be worked and is at least 40°F. For fall, sow by Jul 29 (Jul 16 to be safe), which is 79 days before the first-frost date.

When to plant lettuce (leaf) in Grand Junction

Hardy crop. Per CSU, lettuce (leaf) can be planted as early as 2–4 weeks before the average last frost, as long as the soil is workable and at least 35°F. For Grand Junction, that works out to roughly Mar 31 – Apr 14 (typical date) or Apr 16–30 (safer date). For a fall crop, sow by Aug 3, or by Jul 21 to be safe. That's 74 days back from the first-frost date.

When to plant carrots in Grand Junction

Semi-hardy crop. CSU says carrots can be planted as early as 0–2 weeks before the average last frost, in soil of at least 40°F. In Grand Junction, that's roughly Apr 14–28 going by the typical date, or Apr 30 – May 14 going by the safer date. For a fall crop, sow by Jul 24, or by Jul 11 to be safe. That's 84 days back from the first-frost date.

When to plant beans (snap) in Grand Junction

Tender crop. Sow beans (snap) around the average last frost, per CSU: about Apr 28 in Grand Junction. Waiting until May 14 cuts the chance of a later 32°F night to 1 in 10. Seeds need soil of at least 55°F. For a fall crop, sow by Jul 20, or by Jul 7 to be safe. That's 88 days back from the first-frost date.

When to plant summer squash in Grand Junction

Tender crop. Sow summer squash around the average last frost, per CSU: about Apr 28 in Grand Junction. Waiting until May 14 cuts the chance of a later 32°F night to 1 in 10. Seeds need soil of at least 60°F. For a fall crop, sow by Jul 30, or by Jul 17 to be safe. That's 78 days back from the first-frost date.

When to plant broccoli in Grand Junction

Hardy crop. CSU says broccoli can go in as early as 2–4 weeks before the average last frost: roughly Mar 31 – Apr 14 in Grand Junction using the typical date, or Apr 16–30 using the safer one. Wait until the soil can be worked and is at least 40°F. CSU's typical time from transplant to harvest for broccoli plants is 65 days. Set out on Apr 5, they would start producing around Jun 9, 129 days before the typical first frost (Oct 16). For a fall crop, set broccoli transplants out by Jul 29. That's UNL Extension's count-back from the typical first frost (Oct 16), using CSU's 65 days from transplant to harvest. If you grow your own transplants, start seeds Jun 10–24 (CSU: 5–7 weeks to transplant size).

When to plant cabbage in Grand Junction

Hardy crop. CSU says cabbage can go in as early as 2–4 weeks before the average last frost, once the soil can be worked and is at least 40°F. In Grand Junction, that's roughly Mar 31 – Apr 14 going by the typical date, or Apr 16–30 going by the safer date. CSU's typical time from transplant to harvest for cabbage plants is 85 days. Set out on Apr 5, they would start producing around Jun 29, 109 days before the typical first frost (Oct 16). For a fall crop, set cabbage transplants out by Jul 9. That's UNL Extension's count-back from the typical first frost (Oct 16), using CSU's 85 days from transplant to harvest. If you grow your own transplants, start seeds May 21 – Jun 4 (CSU: 5–7 weeks to transplant size).

When to plant cauliflower in Grand Junction

Semi-hardy crop. CSU allows planting cauliflower as early as 0–2 weeks before the average last frost, in soil at 40°F or warmer. For Grand Junction, that's roughly Apr 14–28 by the typical date or Apr 30 – May 14 by the safer date.

When to plant kohlrabi in Grand Junction

Hardy crop. CSU says kohlrabi can go in as early as 2–4 weeks before the average last frost: roughly Mar 31 – Apr 14 in Grand Junction using the typical date, or Apr 16–30 using the safer one. Wait until the soil can be worked and is at least 40°F. For fall, count back 64 days from the first-frost date. That means sowing by Aug 13, or by Jul 31 to be safe.

When to plant green onions in Grand Junction

Hardy crop. Per CSU, green onions can be planted as early as 2–4 weeks before the average last frost, as long as the soil is workable and at least 35°F. For Grand Junction, that works out to roughly Mar 31 – Apr 14 (typical date) or Apr 16–30 (safer date). For fall, sow by Aug 3 (Jul 21 to be safe), which is 74 days before the first-frost date.

When to plant radishes in Grand Junction

Hardy crop. CSU says radishes can go in as early as 2–4 weeks before the average last frost: roughly Mar 31 – Apr 14 in Grand Junction using the typical date, or Apr 16–30 using the safer one. Wait until the soil can be worked and is at least 40°F. For fall, count back 44 days from the first-frost date. That means sowing by Sep 2, or by Aug 20 to be safe.

When to plant spinach in Grand Junction

Hardy crop. CSU says spinach can go in as early as 2–4 weeks before the average last frost, once the soil can be worked and is at least 40°F. In Grand Junction, that's roughly Mar 31 – Apr 14 going by the typical date, or Apr 16–30 going by the safer date. For a fall crop, sow by Aug 23, or by Aug 10 to be safe. That's 54 days back from the first-frost date.

When to plant turnips in Grand Junction

Hardy crop. CSU says turnips can go in as early as 2–4 weeks before the average last frost, once the soil can be worked and is at least 40°F. In Grand Junction, that's roughly Mar 31 – Apr 14 going by the typical date, or Apr 16–30 going by the safer date. For fall, count back 64 days from the first-frost date. That means sowing by Aug 13, or by Jul 31 to be safe.

When to plant beets in Grand Junction

Semi-hardy crop. CSU allows planting beets as early as 0–2 weeks before the average last frost, in soil at 40°F or warmer. For Grand Junction, that's roughly Apr 14–28 by the typical date or Apr 30 – May 14 by the safer date. For fall, count back 74 days from the first-frost date. That means sowing by Aug 3, or by Jul 21 to be safe.

When to plant swiss chard in Grand Junction

Semi-hardy crop. CSU allows planting swiss chard as early as 0–2 weeks before the average last frost, in soil at 40°F or warmer. For Grand Junction, that's roughly Apr 14–28 by the typical date or Apr 30 – May 14 by the safer date. For a fall crop, sow by Aug 3, or by Jul 21 to be safe. That's 74 days back from the first-frost date.

When to plant parsnips in Grand Junction

Semi-hardy crop. Per CSU, parsnips can go in as early as 0–2 weeks before the average last frost: roughly Apr 14–28 in Grand Junction (typical date) or Apr 30 – May 14 (safer date). The soil should be at least 35°F.

When to plant sweet corn in Grand Junction

Tender crop. Sow sweet corn around the average last frost, per CSU: about Apr 28 in Grand Junction. Waiting until May 14 cuts the chance of a later 32°F night to 1 in 10. Seeds need soil of at least 50°F.

When to plant cucumbers in Grand Junction

Tender crop. Sow cucumbers around the average last frost, per CSU: about Apr 28 in Grand Junction. Waiting until May 14 cuts the chance of a later 32°F night to 1 in 10. Seeds need soil of at least 60°F. For a fall crop, sow by Jul 25, or by Jul 12 to be safe. That's 83 days back from the first-frost date.

When to plant eggplant in Grand Junction

Very tender crop. Following CSU Extension's rule (2+ weeks after the average last frost), set eggplant out around May 12 with the typical date, May 17 for a balanced choice, or May 28 with the safer 10% date. Sow seeds indoors Mar 15 – Apr 5, 6–9 weeks before transplanting on May 17. Using CSU's typical 60 days from transplant to harvest, eggplant plants set out on May 17 would start producing around Jul 16. That's 92 days before the typical first frost (Oct 16).

When to plant cantaloupe in Grand Junction

Very tender crop. CSU Extension's rule is to plant cantaloupe at least 2 weeks after the average last frost. That's about May 12 using the typical date, May 17 as a balanced choice, or May 28 if you go by the safer 10% date. Seeds need soil of at least 60°F.

When to plant watermelon in Grand Junction

Very tender crop. CSU Extension's rule is to plant watermelon at least 2 weeks after the average last frost. That's about May 12 using the typical date, May 17 as a balanced choice, or May 28 if you go by the safer 10% date. Seeds need soil of at least 60°F.

When to plant winter squash in Grand Junction

Very tender crop. CSU Extension's rule is to plant winter squash at least 2 weeks after the average last frost. That's about May 12 using the typical date, May 17 as a balanced choice, or May 28 if you go by the safer 10% date. Seeds need soil of at least 60°F.

When to plant garlic in Grand Junction

CSU Extension's Colorado guidance is to plant garlic in early October, before October 15 (Oct 1–14). That's a fixed statewide window, not one computed from frost data. At Grand Junction Walker Field, the typical first hard freeze (28°F) is Oct 27, 13 days after the window ends.

How these dates are calculated

Timing rules, their sources and where each source applies

Rule	Applies to	Source (scope)
Hardy (cool season): "As early as 2-4 weeks before the date of the average last spring frost."	Onions (dry, from sets), Peas, Lettuce (leaf), Broccoli, Cabbage, Kohlrabi, Green onions, Radishes, Spinach, Turnips	Colorado State University Extension, Vegetable Planting Guide (CMG GardenNotes #720) (written for Colorado; its frost-relative rules are applied to other states' NOAA frost dates and labelled as CSU (Colorado) rules)
Semi-hardy (cool season): "As early as 0-2 weeks before the date of the average last spring frost."	Potatoes, Carrots, Cauliflower, Beets, Swiss chard, Parsnips	Colorado State University Extension, Vegetable Planting Guide (CMG GardenNotes #720) (written for Colorado; its frost-relative rules are applied to other states' NOAA frost dates and labelled as CSU (Colorado) rules)
Tender (warm season): "From seed: around the date of the average last spring frost"	Beans (snap), Summer squash, Sweet corn, Cucumbers	Colorado State University Extension, Vegetable Planting Guide (CMG GardenNotes #720) (written for Colorado; its frost-relative rules are applied to other states' NOAA frost dates and labelled as CSU (Colorado) rules)
Very tender (warm season): "Typically 2+ weeks after the average last spring frost date."	Tomatoes, Peppers, Eggplant, Cantaloupe, Watermelon, Winter squash	Colorado State University Extension, Vegetable Planting Guide (CMG GardenNotes #720) (written for Colorado; its frost-relative rules are applied to other states' NOAA frost dates and labelled as CSU (Colorado) rules)
Start indoors = transplant age (weeks) before the balanced transplant date; days to harvest; minimum soil temperature	Crops with those values in CSU's table	CSU Extension, Vegetable Planting Guide (CMG GardenNotes #720) (written for Colorado; its frost-relative rules are applied to other states' NOAA frost dates and labelled as CSU (Colorado) rules)

Rule	Applies to	Source (scope)
Night-temperature dates: first day the NOAA 1991–2020 daily normal low (DLY-TMIN-NORMAL) is above the CSU transplant threshold or reaches the fruit-set threshold	Tomatoes (above 52°F at transplant, 55°F fruit set), peppers (55°F fruit set)	CSU Growing Tomatoes, CSU Peppers and Eggplants (written for Colorado; generic temperature thresholds applied nationwide with attribution)
Fall count-back: days to harvest + fall factor (14) + frost-tender factor (14)	Peas, Lettuce (leaf), Carrots, Beans (snap), Summer squash, Broccoli, Cabbage, Kohlrabi, Green onions, Radishes, Spinach, Turnips, Beets, Swiss chard, Cucumbers	UNL Extension, Fall Vegetable Gardening (G1343) (written for Nebraska; the count-back formula is applied nationwide with attribution)
Garlic: plant in early October, before October 15	Garlic	CSU Extension (Tri River Area) (Colorado only)

CSU states its spring rules relative to “the average last spring frost.” We use the 50% date as that average and also show the 30% and 10% anchors. See the methodology for details and limitations.

FAQ

When should I start seeds indoors in Grand Junction?

Start tomatoes Apr 13–27 and peppers Mar 22 – Apr 5. Both dates count back from a balanced (30%-risk) transplant date using CSU's transplant ages.

When should I plant tomatoes outside in Grand Junction?

About Jun 1, at every risk level. CSU wants tomatoes out 2+ weeks after the average last frost (that rule alone gives about May 12 here) and nights above 52°F. At Grand Junction Walker Field, the average nightly low first rises above 52°F on Jun 1, later than the frost-rule date, so the night rule sets the date.

What can I plant in Grand Junction in the fall?

Counting back from the typical first frost (Oct 16) with UNL Extension's method: peas by Jul 29; lettuce (leaf) by Aug 3; carrots by Jul 24; beans (snap) by Jul 20; summer squash by Jul 30; broccoli by Jul 29 (transplants); cabbage by Jul 9 (transplants); kohlrabi by Aug 13; green onions by Aug 3; radishes by Sep 2; spinach by Aug 23; turnips by Aug 13; beets by Aug 3; swiss chard by Aug 3; cucumbers by Jul 25. Garlic goes in Oct 1–14.

When should I plant garlic in Grand Junction?

In early October, before October 15 (Oct 1–14), per CSU Extension's Colorado guidance.

Download

- Calendar file (.ics) with frost dates and planting windows for 2027
- Printable PDF of this calendar
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Frost odds: NOAA NCEI U.S. Climate Normals 1991–2020. Hardiness zones: PRISM Group, Oregon State University, <https://prism.oregonstate.edu>, accessed 2026-10-08. Not the official USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map. How we calculate.

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