

Milwaukee, WI Vegetable Planting Calendar

When to plant 26 vegetables in Milwaukee, for the 2027 season, based on 1991–2020 normals. The dates build on the 32°F frost odds at Mount Mary College (3.2 mi W), shifted by CSU Extension timing rules. You'll find each rule and its source below.

About the sources: the spring rules are from Colorado State University Extension and the fall count-back from University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension. We apply them to NOAA frost dates for Milwaukee; Wisconsin extension advice may differ.

Frost anchors: typical last frost Apr 26 (50%), balanced May 2 (30%), safe May 12 (10%); typical first frost Oct 18. Station Mount Mary College (USC00475474), confidence High. USDA zone 5b–6a (2023).
Milwaukee 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 26, 50% risk), **balanced** = May 2 (30%), **safe** = May 12 (10%). For hardy crops the cell shows the CSU “as early as” window.

Milwaukee 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 11–25	May 30	May 30	May 30	50°F
Peppers Very tender (warm season)	transplant	Mar 21 – Apr 4	May 10	May 16	May 26	60°F
Potatoes Semi-hardy (cool season)	plant (seed pieces)	–	Apr 12–26	Apr 18 – May 2	Apr 28 – May 12	45°F
Onions (dry, from sets) Hardy (cool season)	plant sets	–	Mar 29 – Apr 12	Apr 4–18	Apr 14–28	35°F
Peas Hardy (cool season)	direct sow	–	Mar 29 – Apr 12	Apr 4–18	Apr 14–28	40°F
Lettuce (leaf) Hardy (cool season)	direct sow	–	Mar 29 – Apr 12	Apr 4–18	Apr 14–28	35°F
Carrots Semi-hardy (cool season)	direct sow	–	Apr 12–26	Apr 18 – May 2	Apr 28 – May 12	40°F
Beans (snap) Tender (warm season)	direct sow	–	Apr 26	May 2	May 12	55°F
Summer squash Tender (warm season)	direct sow	–	Apr 26	May 2	May 12	60°F

Crop	How	Start indoors	Plant out: aggressive (50%)	Balanced (30%)	Safe (10%)	Min. soil temp
Broccoli Hardy (cool season)	transplant	Feb 14–28	Mar 29 – Apr 12	Apr 4–18	Apr 14–28	40°F
Cabbage Hardy (cool season)	transplant	Feb 14–28	Mar 29 – Apr 12	Apr 4–18	Apr 14–28	40°F
Cauliflower Semi-hardy (cool season)	transplant	Feb 28 – Mar 14	Apr 12–26	Apr 18 – May 2	Apr 28 – May 12	40°F
Kohlrabi Hardy (cool season)	direct sow	–	Mar 29 – Apr 12	Apr 4–18	Apr 14–28	40°F
Green onions Hardy (cool season)	direct sow	–	Mar 29 – Apr 12	Apr 4–18	Apr 14–28	35°F
Radishes Hardy (cool season)	direct sow	–	Mar 29 – Apr 12	Apr 4–18	Apr 14–28	40°F
Spinach Hardy (cool season)	direct sow	–	Mar 29 – Apr 12	Apr 4–18	Apr 14–28	40°F
Turnips Hardy (cool season)	direct sow	–	Mar 29 – Apr 12	Apr 4–18	Apr 14–28	40°F
Beets Semi-hardy (cool season)	direct sow	–	Apr 12–26	Apr 18 – May 2	Apr 28 – May 12	40°F
Swiss chard Semi-hardy (cool season)	direct sow	–	Apr 12–26	Apr 18 – May 2	Apr 28 – May 12	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 12–26	Apr 18 – May 2	Apr 28 – May 12	35°F
Sweet corn Tender (warm season)	direct sow	–	Apr 26	May 2	May 12	50°F
Cucumbers Tender (warm season)	direct sow	–	Apr 26	May 2	May 12	60°F
Eggplant Very tender (warm season)	transplant	Mar 14 – Apr 4	May 10	May 16	May 26	60°F
Cantaloupe Very tender (warm season)	direct sow	–	May 10	May 16	May 26	60°F
Watermelon Very tender (warm season)	direct sow	–	May 10	May 16	May 26	60°F
Winter squash Very tender (warm season)	direct sow	–	May 10	May 16	May 26	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.

Milwaukee fall planting

Crop	How	Days counted back	By (typical first frost Oct 18)	By (early first frost Oct 2)
Peas	sow	79	Jul 31	Jul 15
Lettuce (leaf)	sow	74	Aug 5	Jul 20
Carrots	sow	84	Jul 26	Jul 10
Beans (snap)	sow	88 (frost-tender)	Jul 22	Jul 6
Summer squash	sow	78 (frost-tender)	Aug 1	Jul 16
Broccoli	transplant (start seeds Jun 12–26)	79	Jul 31	Jul 15
Cabbage	transplant (start seeds May 23 – Jun 6)	99	Jul 11	Jun 25
Kohlrabi	sow	64	Aug 15	Jul 30
Green onions	sow	74	Aug 5	Jul 20
Radishes	sow	44	Sep 4	Aug 19
Spinach	sow	54	Aug 25	Aug 9
Turnips	sow	64	Aug 15	Jul 30
Beets	sow	74	Aug 5	Jul 20
Swiss chard	sow	74	Aug 5	Jul 20
Cucumbers	sow	83 (frost-tender)	Jul 27	Jul 11

Month-by-month: what to plant in Milwaukee

What to plant in Milwaukee in February

- Start broccoli seeds indoors (Feb 14–28)
- Start cabbage seeds indoors (Feb 14–28)
- Start cauliflower seeds indoors (Feb 28 – Mar 14)

What to plant in Milwaukee in March

- Start eggplant seeds indoors (Mar 14 – Apr 4)
- Start pepper seeds indoors (Mar 21 – Apr 4)
- Onions (dry, from sets): plant sets outdoors (Mar 29 – Apr 28)
- Peas: direct sow outdoors (Mar 29 – Apr 28)
- Lettuce (leaf): direct sow outdoors (Mar 29 – Apr 28)
- Broccoli: transplant outdoors (Mar 29 – Apr 28)
- Cabbage: transplant outdoors (Mar 29 – Apr 28)
- Kohlrabi: direct sow outdoors (Mar 29 – Apr 28)
- Green onions: direct sow outdoors (Mar 29 – Apr 28)
- Radishes: direct sow outdoors (Mar 29 – Apr 28)
- Spinach: direct sow outdoors (Mar 29 – Apr 28)
- Turnips: direct sow outdoors (Mar 29 – Apr 28)
- Start cauliflower seeds indoors (Feb 28 – Mar 14)

What to plant in Milwaukee in April

- Start tomato seeds indoors (Apr 11–25)
- Potatoes: plant (seed pieces) outdoors (Apr 12 – May 12)
- Carrots: direct sow outdoors (Apr 12 – May 12)
- Cauliflower: transplant outdoors (Apr 12 – May 12)
- Beets: direct sow outdoors (Apr 12 – May 12)
- Swiss chard: direct sow outdoors (Apr 12 – May 12)
- Parsnips: direct sow outdoors (Apr 12 – May 12)
- Beans (snap): direct sow outdoors (Apr 26 – May 12)
- Summer squash: direct sow outdoors (Apr 26 – May 12)
- Sweet corn: direct sow outdoors (Apr 26 – May 12)
- Cucumbers: direct sow outdoors (Apr 26 – May 12)
- Start eggplant seeds indoors (Mar 14 – Apr 4)
- Start pepper seeds indoors (Mar 21 – Apr 4)
- Onions (dry, from sets): plant sets outdoors (Mar 29 – Apr 28)
- Peas: direct sow outdoors (Mar 29 – Apr 28)
- Lettuce (leaf): direct sow outdoors (Mar 29 – Apr 28)
- Broccoli: transplant outdoors (Mar 29 – Apr 28)
- Cabbage: transplant outdoors (Mar 29 – Apr 28)
- Kohlrabi: direct sow outdoors (Mar 29 – Apr 28)
- Green onions: direct sow outdoors (Mar 29 – Apr 28)
- Radishes: direct sow outdoors (Mar 29 – Apr 28)
- Spinach: direct sow outdoors (Mar 29 – Apr 28)
- Turnips: direct sow outdoors (Mar 29 – Apr 28)

What to plant in Milwaukee in May

- Peppers: transplant outdoors (May 10–26)
- Eggplant: transplant outdoors (May 10–26)
- Cantaloupe: direct sow outdoors (May 10–26)
- Watermelon: direct sow outdoors (May 10–26)
- Winter squash: direct sow outdoors (May 10–26)
- Start cabbage seeds indoors for a fall crop (May 23 – Jun 6)
- Tomatoes: transplant outdoors (May 30)
- Potatoes: plant (seed pieces) outdoors (Apr 12 – May 12)
- Carrots: direct sow outdoors (Apr 12 – May 12)
- Cauliflower: transplant outdoors (Apr 12 – May 12)
- Beets: direct sow outdoors (Apr 12 – May 12)
- Swiss chard: direct sow outdoors (Apr 12 – May 12)
- Parsnips: direct sow outdoors (Apr 12 – May 12)
- Beans (snap): direct sow outdoors (Apr 26 – May 12)
- Summer squash: direct sow outdoors (Apr 26 – May 12)
- Sweet corn: direct sow outdoors (Apr 26 – May 12)
- Cucumbers: direct sow outdoors (Apr 26 – May 12)

What to plant in Milwaukee in June

- Start broccoli seeds indoors for a fall crop (Jun 12–26)
- Start cabbage seeds indoors for a fall crop (May 23 – Jun 6)

What to plant in Milwaukee in July

- Last day to set out cabbage transplants for a fall harvest (by Jul 11)
- Last day to sow beans (snap) for a fall harvest (by Jul 22)
- Last day to sow carrots for a fall harvest (by Jul 26)
- Last day to sow cucumbers for a fall harvest (by Jul 27)
- Last day to sow peas for a fall harvest (by Jul 31)
- Last day to set out broccoli transplants for a fall harvest (by Jul 31)

What to plant in Milwaukee in August

- Last day to sow summer squash for a fall harvest (by Aug 1)
- Last day to sow lettuce (leaf) for a fall harvest (by Aug 5)
- Last day to sow green onions for a fall harvest (by Aug 5)
- Last day to sow beets for a fall harvest (by Aug 5)
- Last day to sow swiss chard for a fall harvest (by Aug 5)
- Last day to sow kohlrabi for a fall harvest (by Aug 15)

- Last day to sow turnips for a fall harvest (by Aug 15)
- Last day to sow spinach for a fall harvest (by Aug 25)

What to plant in Milwaukee in September

- Last day to sow radishes for a fall harvest (by Sep 4)

Crop-by-crop notes

When to plant tomatoes in Milwaukee

Very tender crop. Set tomatoes out about May 30, whichever risk level you go by. That date comes from CSU Extension's night rule (nights above 52°F): the average nightly low at Mount Mary College first rises above 52°F on May 30. CSU's other rule, at least 2 weeks after the average last frost, would allow about May 10 in Milwaukee. Sow seeds indoors Apr 11–25, 5–7 weeks before transplanting on May 30. CSU notes that nights under 55°F hurt fruit set. The normal low at Mount Mary College climbs to 55°F on Jun 7. CSU's typical time from transplant to harvest for tomato plants is 65 days. Set out on May 30, they would start producing around Aug 3, 76 days before the typical first frost (Oct 18).

When to plant peppers in Milwaukee

Very tender crop. CSU Extension's rule is 2+ weeks after the average last frost, which puts peppers outside around May 10 (typical date), May 16 (balanced) or May 26 (safer 10% date). Start seeds indoors Mar 21 – Apr 4, 6–8 weeks ahead of transplanting on May 16. Below 55°F at night, fruit set suffers (CSU). At Mount Mary College, the normal low reaches 55°F on Jun 7. Using CSU's typical 70 days from transplant to harvest, pepper plants set out on May 16 would start producing around Jul 25. That's 85 days before the typical first frost (Oct 18).

When to plant potatoes in Milwaukee

Semi-hardy crop. CSU allows planting potatoes as early as 0–2 weeks before the average last frost, in soil at 45°F or warmer. For Milwaukee, that's roughly Apr 12–26 by the typical date or Apr 28 – May 12 by the safer date.

When to plant onions (dry, from sets) in Milwaukee

Hardy crop. CSU says onions (dry, from sets) can go in as early as 2–4 weeks before the average last frost, once the soil can be worked and is at least 35°F. In Milwaukee, that's roughly Mar 29 – Apr 12 going by the typical date, or Apr 14–28 going by the safer date.

When to plant peas in Milwaukee

Hardy crop. CSU says peas 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 Milwaukee, that's roughly Mar 29 – Apr 12 going by the typical date, or Apr 14–28 going by the safer date. For a fall crop, sow by Jul 31, or by Jul 15 to be safe. That's 79 days back from the first-frost date.

When to plant lettuce (leaf) in Milwaukee

Hardy crop. CSU says lettuce (leaf) can go in as early as 2–4 weeks before the average last frost, once the soil can be worked and is at least 35°F. In Milwaukee, that's roughly Mar 29 – Apr 12 going by the typical date, or Apr 14–28 going by the safer date. For a fall crop, sow by Aug 5, or by Jul 20 to be safe. That's 74 days back from the first-frost date.

When to plant carrots in Milwaukee

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 Milwaukee, that's roughly Apr 12–26 going by the typical date, or Apr 28 – May 12 going by the safer date. For a fall crop, sow by Jul 26, or by Jul 10 to be safe. That's 84 days back from the first-frost date.

When to plant beans (snap) in Milwaukee

Tender crop. CSU says to sow beans (snap) around the average last frost, about Apr 26 in Milwaukee. If you want only a 1-in-10 chance of a later 32°F night, wait until May 12. Seeds need soil of at least 55°F. For fall, sow by Jul 22 (Jul 6 to be safe), which is 88 days before the first-frost date.

When to plant summer squash in Milwaukee

Tender crop. Sow summer squash around the average last frost, per CSU: about Apr 26 in Milwaukee. Waiting until May 12 cuts the chance of a later 32°F night to 1 in 10. Seeds need soil of at least 60°F. For fall, sow by Aug 1 (Jul 16 to be safe), which is 78 days before the first-frost date.

When to plant broccoli in Milwaukee

Hardy crop. Per CSU, broccoli can be planted as early as 2–4 weeks before the average last frost, as long as the soil is workable and at least 40°F. For Milwaukee, that works out to roughly Mar 29 – Apr 12 (typical date) or Apr 14–28 (safer date). CSU's typical time from transplant to harvest for broccoli plants is 65 days. Set out on Apr 4, they would start producing around Jun 8, 132 days before the typical first frost (Oct 18). For a fall crop, set broccoli transplants out by Jul 31. That's UNL Extension's count-back from the typical first frost (Oct 18), using CSU's 65 days from transplant to harvest. If you grow your own transplants, start seeds Jun 12–26 (CSU: 5–7 weeks to transplant size).

When to plant cabbage in Milwaukee

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 Milwaukee, that's roughly Mar 29 – Apr 12 going by the typical date, or Apr 14–28 going by the safer date. CSU's typical time from transplant to harvest for cabbage plants is 85 days. Set out on Apr 4, they would start producing around Jun 28, 112 days before the typical first frost (Oct 18). For a fall harvest of cabbage, get transplants in the ground by Jul 11 (UNL Extension count-back from the typical first frost, Oct 18, with CSU's 85 days from transplant to harvest). To raise your own, sow seeds May 23 – Jun 6, 5–7 weeks ahead (CSU).

When to plant cauliflower in Milwaukee

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 Milwaukee, that's roughly Apr 12–26 by the typical date or Apr 28 – May 12 by the safer date.

When to plant kohlrabi in Milwaukee

Hardy crop. CSU says kohlrabi 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 Milwaukee, that's roughly Mar 29 – Apr 12 going by the typical date, or Apr 14–28 going by the safer date. For a fall crop, sow by Aug 15, or by Jul 30 to be safe. That's 64 days back from the first-frost date.

When to plant green onions in Milwaukee

Hardy crop. CSU says green onions can go in as early as 2–4 weeks before the average last frost: roughly Mar 29 – Apr 12 in Milwaukee using the typical date, or Apr 14–28 using the safer one. Wait until the soil can be worked and is at least 35°F. For a fall crop, sow by Aug 5, or by Jul 20 to be safe. That's 74 days back from the first-frost date.

When to plant radishes in Milwaukee

Hardy crop. Per CSU, radishes can be planted as early as 2–4 weeks before the average last frost, as long as the soil is workable and at least 40°F. For Milwaukee, that works out to roughly Mar 29 – Apr 12 (typical date) or Apr 14–28 (safer date). For a fall crop, sow by Sep 4, or by Aug 19 to be safe. That's 44 days back from the first-frost date.

When to plant spinach in Milwaukee

Hardy crop. CSU says spinach can go in as early as 2–4 weeks before the average last frost: roughly Mar 29 – Apr 12 in Milwaukee using the typical date, or Apr 14–28 using the safer one. Wait until the soil can be worked and is at least 40°F. For fall, count back 54 days from the first-frost date. That means sowing by Aug 25, or by Aug 9 to be safe.

When to plant turnips in Milwaukee

Hardy crop. Per CSU, turnips can be planted as early as 2–4 weeks before the average last frost, as long as the soil is workable and at least 40°F. For Milwaukee, that works out to roughly Mar 29 – Apr 12 (typical date) or Apr 14–28 (safer date). For a fall crop, sow by Aug 15, or by Jul 30 to be safe. That's 64 days back from the first-frost date.

When to plant beets in Milwaukee

Semi-hardy crop. Per CSU, beets can go in as early as 0–2 weeks before the average last frost: roughly Apr 12–26 in Milwaukee (typical date) or Apr 28 – May 12 (safer date). The soil should be at least 40°F. For fall, count back 74 days from the first-frost date. That means sowing by Aug 5, or by Jul 20 to be safe.

When to plant swiss chard in Milwaukee

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 Milwaukee, that's roughly Apr 12–26 by the typical date or Apr 28 – May 12 by the safer date. For fall, count back 74 days from the first-frost date. That means sowing by Aug 5, or by Jul 20 to be safe.

When to plant parsnips in Milwaukee

Semi-hardy crop. CSU allows planting parsnips as early as 0–2 weeks before the average last frost, in soil at 35°F or warmer. For Milwaukee, that's roughly Apr 12–26 by the typical date or Apr 28 – May 12 by the safer date.

When to plant sweet corn in Milwaukee

Tender crop. CSU says to sow sweet corn around the average last frost, about Apr 26 in Milwaukee. If you want only a 1-in-10 chance of a later 32°F night, wait until May 12. Seeds need soil of at least 50°F.

When to plant cucumbers in Milwaukee

Tender crop. CSU says to sow cucumbers around the average last frost, about Apr 26 in Milwaukee. If you want only a 1-in-10 chance of a later 32°F night, wait until May 12. Seeds need soil of at least 60°F. For fall, sow by Jul 27 (Jul 11 to be safe), which is 83 days before the first-frost date.

When to plant eggplant in Milwaukee

Very tender crop. CSU Extension's rule is to set eggplant out at least 2 weeks after the average last frost. That's about May 10 using the typical date, May 16 as a balanced choice, or May 26 if you go by

the safer 10% date. Start seeds indoors Mar 14 – Apr 4, 6–9 weeks before transplanting on May 16. CSU's typical time from transplant to harvest for eggplant plants is 60 days. Set out on May 16, they would start producing around Jul 15, 95 days before the typical first frost (Oct 18).

When to plant cantaloupe in Milwaukee

Very tender crop. Following CSU Extension's rule of 2+ weeks after the average last frost, plant cantaloupe around May 10 at the earliest, May 16 as a balanced choice, or May 26 to be safe. CSU's minimum soil temperature is 60°F.

When to plant watermelon in Milwaukee

Very tender crop. CSU Extension's rule is to plant watermelon at least 2 weeks after the average last frost. That's about May 10 using the typical date, May 16 as a balanced choice, or May 26 if you go by the safer 10% date. Seeds need soil of at least 60°F.

When to plant winter squash in Milwaukee

Very tender crop. CSU Extension says to plant winter squash 2+ weeks after the average last frost: about May 10 (typical date), May 16 (balanced) or May 26 (safer 10% date). Wait for soil of at least 60°F.

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)

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 Milwaukee?

Sow tomatoes indoors Apr 11–25 and peppers Mar 21 – Apr 4. We work back from a balanced (30%-risk) transplant date using CSU's transplant ages.

When should I plant tomatoes outside in Milwaukee?

About May 30, at every risk level. CSU wants tomatoes out 2+ weeks after the average last frost (that rule alone gives about May 10 here) and nights above 52°F. At Mount Mary College, the average nightly low first rises above 52°F on May 30, later than the frost-rule date, so the night rule sets the date.

What can I plant in Milwaukee in the fall?

Counting back from the typical first frost (Oct 18) with UNL Extension's method: peas by Jul 31; lettuce (leaf) by Aug 5; carrots by Jul 26; beans (snap) by Jul 22; summer squash by Aug 1; broccoli by Jul 31 (transplants); cabbage by Jul 11 (transplants); kohlrabi by Aug 15; green onions by Aug 5;

radishes by Sep 4; spinach by Aug 25; turnips by Aug 15; beets by Aug 5; swiss chard by Aug 5; cucumbers by Jul 27.

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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