

HOME GROUNDS FACT SHEET



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Nassau County



Horticulture Center
Demonstration & Community Gardens
at East Meadow Farm
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Harvesting Suggestions for Vegetable Gardeners

	Harvest at Prime 1	Short Holding Period 2	Long Holding Period 3	Frost Tolerance 4	Comment
Asparagus	X			none	Makes best quality in warm weather.
Beans, snap	X	a		none	Keep picked to prolong harvest.
Beets			X	good	Can start harvest when beets are small.
Broccoli	X	a		good	Side shoots lengthen harvest period.
Brussels sprouts		X	a	very good	Harvest sprouts when firm.
Cabbage		X	a	some	Good until heads split.
Carrots			X	good	Can start harvest when carrots are small.
Cauliflower	X	X	a	some	Strip off older leaves.
Celery		X	a	some	Protect curd from sun.
Cucumbers	X			none	Keep picked to prolong harvest.
Eggplant		X		none	Brown seeds - overmature for eating.
Greens		X	a	good	Harvest older leaves - allow new to grow.
Lettuce	X	a		some	Leaf lettuce can be harvested over a fairly long period.
Muskmelons	X			none	Harvest at full slip and finish ripening in house.
Onions, bulb			X	good	Harvest at usable size before bulbing.
Onions, green		X		good	Pull bulbs after tops fall over and dry.
Parsnips			X	very good	Low temperature increases sweetness.
Peas	X			some	Make 2 or 3 picks.
Pepper		X		none	Green fruits ready when fairly firm.
Potato			X	some	Usable at any size. Let mature for storage.
Pumpkins			X	none	Harvest before hard frost.
Radish	X			good	Pass usable stage quickly.
Rhubarb		X		good	Pull rather than cut stalks.
Spinach		X		good	Suitable until seedstalks form or leaves become tough.
Squash, summer	X			none	Keep picked to prolong harvest.
Squash, winter			X	none	Harvest before frost after rind hardens.
Sweet Corn		a		slightly	Opinions vary on best harvest stage.
Swiss Chard			X	good	Harvest older leaves - let new leaves grow.
Tomato		X		none	Can be picked at turning and house ripened.
Turnip			X	very good	Tops make good greens.
Watermelon		X		none	Must be fully mature at harvest.

1. Crops should be harvested at prime condition, which is of short duration.
 2. Product holds good quality for 1 to 2 weeks when left in the garden.
 3. Product holds good quality for 3 to 6 weeks when left in the garden.
 4. Frost tolerance of the plant and product. Sometimes the foliage protects fruit, such as tomatoes, at first frost.
- a = crop may remain in good condition longer during cool weather in the fall.*

-continued-

B-1-39 DWM:cms reviewed RT 1/03

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

Cornell Cooperative Extension in Nassau County provides equal program and employment opportunities.

LAST PLANTING DATES FOR VEGETABLES ON LONG ISLAND

BY JULY 1

Lima Beans
Brussels sprouts*
Cabbage*
Celeriac
Celery*
Edible Cowpeas
Eggplant*
Herbs, most
Leeks
Okra
Peppers* (main season)
Popcorn
Edible Soybeans
Sweet Corn (main season-July 15)
Tomatoes

BY AUGUST 7

Beans, snap (pole)
Cabbage (main season)
Carrots
Cauliflower*
Cucumbers
Lettuce, head
Lettuce, Romaine
Onions (green)
Parsley
Parsnip
Rutabagas
Squash, summer

BY AUGUST 20

Beans, snap
Beets
Broccoli*
Cabbage (early var.)*
Cauliflower
Collards
Endive
Kale
Kohlrabi
Mustard
Peas
Radishes, Chinese
Swiss Chard

BY SEPTEMBER 1

Lettuce, bab
Lettuce, leaf
Spinach
Turnip

BY SEPTEMBER 10

Radishes

* Transplants set in field (direct seed 2 - 3 weeks earlier)

Note: Success at these last dates will vary for district and year.

Onions should be seeded by April 20 or transplanted by May 10.