Your Summer Vegetable Garden

What to plant in western Washington

Table 1. Crops well-suited to warm and cool temperatures in Washington (adapted from Maynard and Hochmuth 1997, 89).

Warm-Temperature Crops	
Bean	Okra*
Corn, Sweet	Pepper
Cucumber	Pumpkin
Edamame	Squash, Summer
Eggplant*	Squash, Winter
Melon	Sweet Potato*
New Zealand Spinach	Tomato
Cool-Temperature Crops	
Artichoke**	Horseradish**
Artichoke, Globe**	Kale
Asparagus**	Kohlrabi
Bean, Broad	Leek
Beet	Lettuce
Broccoli	Mustard
Brussels Sprout	Onion
Cabbage	Parsley
Carrot	Parsnip
Cauliflower	Pea
Celery	Potato
Chard, Swiss	Radish
Chicory (Endive)	Rhubarb**
Chive	Salsify
Collards	Spinach
Garlic	Turnip

*These crops require the most warmth to be productive; in cooler areas they will need to be grown in plastic covered tunnels or greenhouses.
**These crops are perennial.

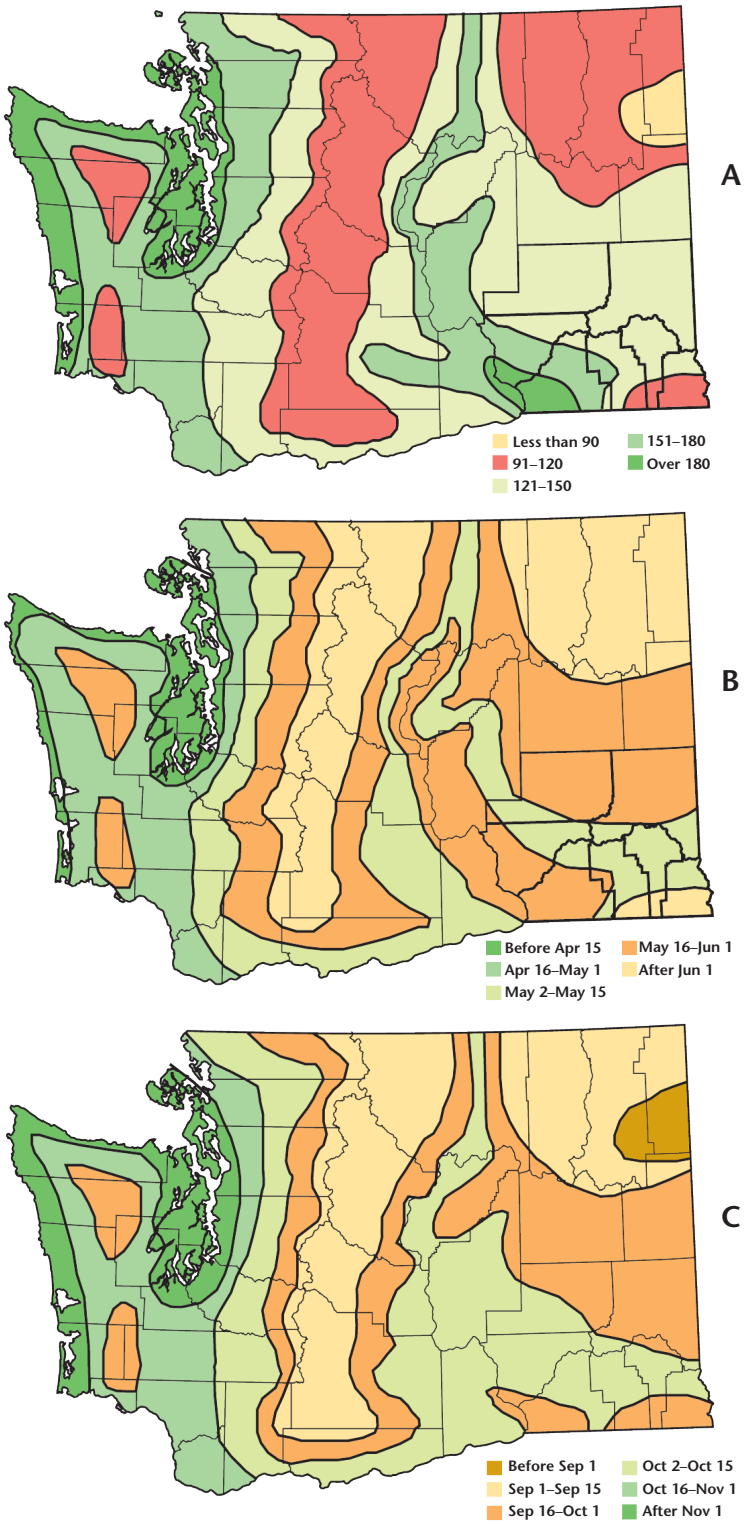


Figure 1. Washington climate factors affecting vegetable production: length of growing season (frost-free days) (A); average last killing frost date in spring (B); and average first killing frost date in fall (C) (adapted from Antonelli et al. 2004, 4).

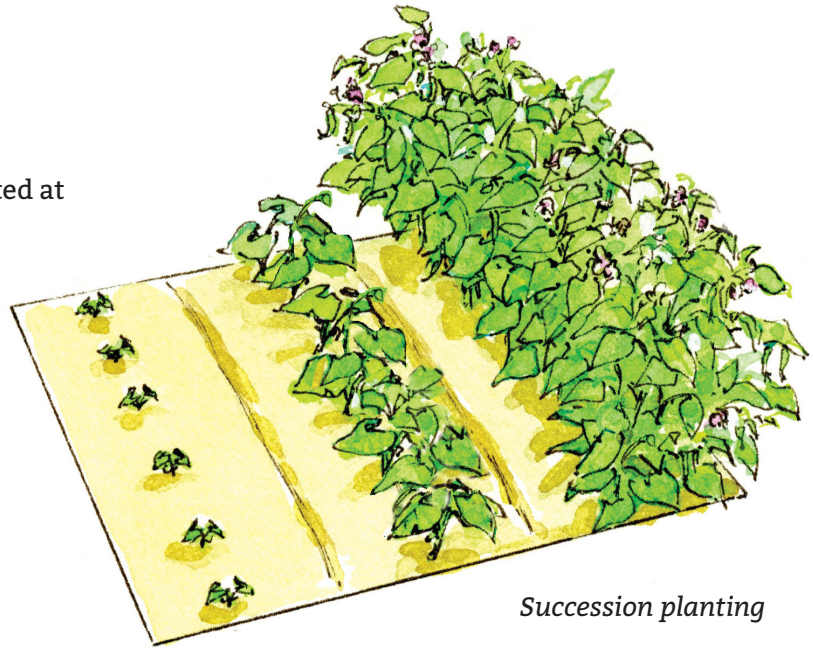
Source: Home Vegetable Gardening in Washington, Washington State University Extension , EM057E

4 steps to garden planning

1. Make a list of 6 to 8 crops to begin
2. Decide how much you want of each crop
3. Make 3 maps for your garden, labelled spring, summer and fall
4. Fill in the maps

Succession Planting

- Preventing feast and famine in the garden
- Stagger your timing
- Transplants can help
- Can also work with different varieties planted at the same time



Succession planting

Mulch

Straw (not hay/alfalfa), leaves, newspaper, grass clippings

Integrated Pest Management

1. Prevention
2. Observation
3. Life Cycle
4. Physical
5. Biological
6. Chemical

Watering

- Water at the roots—reduces mold on leaves
- Healthy soil provides more water to plants—can reduce frequency or duration of irrigation when healthy soil exists

Resources

Gardening Websites

- Gardening in Washington State: gardening.wsu.edu
- The Informed Gardener: http://puyallup.wsu.edu/~Linda%20Chalker-Scott/

Washington State University Extension

Pierce County Master Gardeners
(253) 798-7170 | pierce.mg@wsu.edu

Vegetable Garden Planning Guide

Difficulty	Vegetable	Space needs	Days to Harvest	Plant outside	Special needs
	Basil	*	35–55	May–June	Can't handle cold weather
	Beans	**	60–90	May–June	Will rot if planted outside too early—select bush varieties to save space Pole varieties need trellising
	Beets	*	50–60	March–May	
	Broccoli	**	60–90	March–April	Lacks tolerance to heat—plant in early spring
	Cabbage	**	60 –100	March–July (depends on variety)	Can burst if left too long—keep an eye on them as they get close!
	Carrots	*	60–90	March–July	Don't like to be transplanted—plant outside
	Cauliflower	**	75–90	April–May	Similar to broccoli
	Collards	**	50–60	April–May	Performs best in cool weather
	Corn	***	60–95	May–June	Need to plant a block of it (several rows) for cross-pollination
	Cucumber	**	45–65	May–June	Can be trellised—don't like to be transplanted so do it carefully
	Eggplant	**	60–75	June	Sensitive to cold weather
	Kale	**	50–60	April–May	Performs best in cool weather
	Kohlrabi	**	50–65	March–June	Plant as early as the soil can be worked and continue to plant for salad all summer
	Melons	***	65–85	May–June	Sensitive to cold weather—hard to grow in this region!
	Onions	*	85–110	March–May	Onions need plenty of water—mulching can help
	Peas	**	60	Feb–April	Some varieties need trellising
	Peppers	**	70–100	May–June	Sensitive to cold weather
	Pumpkins	***	100	May–June	Take care when transplanting
	Spinach	*	40–50	March–June	Look for spring vs. summer varieties
	Summer Squash	***	50–60	May–June	Look for bush varieties to save space
	Swiss Chard	**	40–60	March–May	Can last all summer and winter too!
	Tomato	***	60–100	May–June	Look for determinate varieties to save space, indeterminate varieties need staking or trellising

* = Low ** = Moderate *** = High

Beginner Challenging Tough