

Brentwood Seed Library

2023 Growing Guide

VEGETABLES/FRUITS

Bean, Black Turtle, Organic

- 102 days
- Sow 1-2 in. deep, 3–4 in. apart in rows 24–30 in. apart after all danger of frost has passed
- Let pods dry hard on the vine until pressing the beans with your fingernail leaves no indentation
- Seeds are easy to save

Bean, Blue Lake Stringless

- 62 days
- Pole bean
- Plant seed 1 in. deep
- Sow seeds when the soil is warm and all danger of frost is past
- Plant 2 seeds every 4 inches. Thin to 1 plant every 4 in. when the plants have 4 leaves

Beets

- 45-50 days
- Can be sown almost as soon as ground can be worked in spring
- Sow ½ in. deep, 3 in. apart
- For full-sized beets, thin to 3 in. apart. Early thinnings make good salad greens.

Broccoli

- 67-95 days
- Start broccoli indoors March–May for setting out May–July, or direct-seed in May/June for fall crop
- Sow ¼ in. deep
- Dislikes extreme temperature and moisture fluctuations

Butternut Squash

- 90-100 days
- Sow 4–5 seeds per hill when weather has warmed after danger of frost. Allow 4–6 ft. between hills. Thin to 3 best plants.
- Full sun

Cabbage

- 75-100 days
- Sow ¼ in. deep
- Start indoors March-May for setting out May-July, or start outside in May/June for fall

Carrot

- 75 – 90 days
- Early carrots can be sown by late April. For fall crop, plant in early summer
- Sow ½ in. deep
- Can take up to 3 weeks to germinate
- At 3 in. high, thin to ½ in. apart. At 6 in. thin again to 1-2 in. apart.

Celery

- 100 days
- Press seed into surface
- Start inside 10-12 weeks before average last frost date for spring harvest
- Transplant outside when day temps are above 55° and nights do not dip below 40°

Corn & Popcorn

- 70-100 days
- Wait till soil is at least 60° before starting seeds outside
- Sow seeds 1-2 in. deep, 3 in. apart
- For popcorn, let ears dry on the stalks. The kernels are ready for harvest when they are hard and you can no longer leave a mark on them with your fingernail.

Cucumber

- 63 days
- May be started indoors for early production, or direct seeded when soil has warmed
- Sow ½ in. deep, 2 in. apart

Husk Cherry, Aunt Molly's Organic

- 72 days
- Sow indoors ¼ in. deep, 2 in. apart, in warm location
- Transplant after last spring frost
- Will readily self-sow

Kale

- 62 days
- Sow seeds indoors ¼ in. deep

- Plant out just before the last frost
- Full sun

Lettuce

- 45-68 days
- Sow outdoors as soon as ground can be worked, or start indoors in March
- Sow 1/8 in. - ¼ in. deep

Mustard

- 10-15 days for microgreens
- Grow in shallow trays or 20-row flats
- Plant the seed thickly, with seeds ¼ in.-½ in. apart, and gently firm into soil. Cover lightly with soil.
- Do not allow soil to dry out
- Harvest microgreens when the first true leaves emerge. Cut with scissors and wash before eating.

Okra

- 65 days
- Sow indoors in peat pots, ¼ in. deep, and transplant in 4-5 weeks, after danger of frost
- Transplant 2 ft. apart; do not disturb roots.
- Once it flowers, the fleshy pods will be ready for harvest in two days. They are best when picked young and tender, no longer than 4 in.

Onion

- 98 days
- Sow seeds 1–2 in. deep and 6–8 in. apart in shallow trenches, 1–2 ft. between rows
- After half the onion tops fall, push over the remainder and harvest within a week.

Peas

- 60-70 days
- Sow as early as ground can be worked for best yields
- Plant seed ¾ in. deep
- Install stakes at planting time to avoid disturbing seedlings
- Seeds are easy to save

Pepper, Cayenne

- 75 days

- Start indoors in March or April. Set out in June.
- Sow ¼ in. deep
- Peppers change from dark green color to bright red

Pepper, Jalapeño

- 65 days green, 85 days ripe red
- Sow ¼ in. deep
- Start indoors in March or April. Set out in June.
- Peppers change from dark green color to bright red.

Spinach

- 42 days
- Sow seeds ½ in. deep
- Plant as soon as the ground can be worked in spring to avoid early bolting.
- For fall crops try late July–Aug. sowing; to overwinter, sow late Aug.–Sept.

Swiss Chard

- 50 days
- Sow seeds ½ to ¾ in. deep and thin to 12-16 in. apart
- Plant from early to late spring, and again in the fall

Tomato (all varieties)

- 62 days
- Indeterminate
- Require staking
- Sow ¼ in. deep
- Start indoors Feb–April. Transplant after frost danger has passed.

Toy Choy

- 30-35 days
- Sow seeds ¼ in. deep
- Start outside 2 to 4 weeks before your average last frost date. Sow again in late summer for fall crops.

Turnips

- Only the greens are edible
- 45 days
- Sow seeds outside as early as the soil can be worked

- Plant 2 seeds together every 2 in., covering firmly with soil. Thin to 6 in. apart when plants have 2 or 3 leaves.
- As plants begin to mature, pick outer leaves for regular use until entire plants are harvested

Watermelon

- Sow ½ in. deep, indoors in late April or one month before transplanting outdoors
- To harvest, spread thumb and forefinger and press hard on fruit. If you feel any give, watermelon is ripe. Thumping should produce a low, hollow sound.

FLOWERS

Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)

- Native perennial, pollinator friendly
- 2x2 ft. plants
- Leaves are food source for monarch butterfly caterpillars
- Chill seed 4 weeks at 30-40 degrees F before planting
- Sow ¼ in. deep outdoors in spring or fall, thinning to 18–24 in.
- Choose a permanent site with well-drained fertile sandy soil

Chamomile

- 60-65 days
- 15-24 in. height
- Start seeds indoors 4-6 weeks before transplanting outside, when seedlings are 1-2 in. tall. Space 8 in. apart.
- Press seeds into surface of soil but do not cover
- Grow in full sun

French Marigold, Sparky Mix

- Annual
- 10–12 in. plants
- Start indoors 4-8 weeks early. Transplant after frost danger has passed.
- Cover seed lightly.
- Likes heat and full sun. Tolerant to drought.

Lavender

- Success is improved if seeds are placed with soil in a plastic bag and refrigerated for 4-6 weeks

- Sow seeds indoors just beneath surface of soil
- Once removed from refrigeration, place in an area that is between 55- 65°F.
- Plant outside after the danger of frost has passed, 18-24 in. apart

Nasturtium, Jewel Mix

- Annual
- Edible flowers with spicy sweet fragrance. Round leaves also edible.
- Cover the seed. Start indoors or outdoors after last frost.
- Blooms keep coming if cut, needs moisture and cool temperatures for optimal blooming.
- Intolerant of frost. Likes full sun.

Sunflowers

- Annual
- Sow seeds ½ in. deep, 6 in. apart
- Start seeds outdoors after last frost
- Prefer full sun to light shade and well-drained rich soil
- Provide support for tall plants

Wild Bergamot

- Native perennial, pollinator friendly
- 3–4 ft. plants
- Plant outside from early spring up until 8 weeks before the first frost in the fall.
- Sow one seed per inch in rows 18 in. apart. Thin to 12-18 in. apart.

HERBS

Basil

- 68 days
- Sow ¼ in. deep, 2-3 seeds per inch, firm soil over seeds
- Sow outdoors when soil warms in late spring or transplant after danger of frost
- Harvest before plants blossom

Dill

- 65 days
- Sow outdoors around last frost or indoors before last frost. Transplant quickly.
- Sow ¼ in. deep, 9-12 in. apart
- Sow every 3-4 weeks for fresh dill all season

- For use as a dry herb, harvest before umbel flowers form

Fennel

- 60-90 days
- Soak seeds for a day or two for better germination
- Sow seeds ¼ in. deep, after the last frost in spring, in full sun
- Thin to 4-6 in. apart when the plants are about 2 in. tall
- Pollinator friendly

Oregano

- Perennial
- Start seeds indoors in spring
- Sprinkle on top of soil and then tamp into soil. Do not cover seeds with soil.
- Likes sun and light well-drained alkaline soil
- Harvest when it is beginning to flower

Parsley

- 70 days
- Soaking seed 8–12 hours will speed up germination
- Sow ¼-½ in. Deep. Slow to germinate (up to 30 days). Do not allow soil to dry out.

Sage

- Sow seeds indoors on surface of soil
- Can also be directly sown outdoors two weeks after the last spring frost
- Space plants 12 in. apart
- Divide every 3-4 years

Tarragon

- Start seed indoors 6 weeks before transplanting outdoors
- Or, sow directly in full sun after danger of frost is past
- Thin or transplant plants to 18 in. apart when they are 3 in. tall
- Pick leaves as needed