

ZONE 9 FALL PLANTING GUIDE · AUGUST – DECEMBER

Zone 9 Fall Planting Guide

Your cool-season garden companion — what to sow, start indoors & transplant.

DS Direct sow outdoors

SI Start indoors

TP Transplant outdoors

CL Plant garlic cloves

AUGUST

DIRECT SOW

Broccoli — wait for cooler soil; bush beans in warm areas.

START INDOORS

Broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, collards, kale.

TRANSPLANT

Tomatoes and peppers where fall frost is late.

SEPTEMBER

DIRECT SOW

Radishes, turnips, bush beans; carrots in cooler areas.

START INDOORS

Lettuce, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower.

TRANSPLANT

Kale, collards, broccoli as heat eases.

OCTOBER

DIRECT SOW

Carrots, beets, radishes, spinach, turnips, peas in cooler areas.

START INDOORS

Lettuce and brassicas for later planting.

TRANSPLANT

Broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, kale, lettuce.

NOVEMBER

DIRECT SOW

Carrots, radishes, peas, spinach; garlic cloves.

START INDOORS

Lettuce and cabbage for mild-winter areas.

TRANSPLANT

Cabbage, onions, strawberries, lettuce.

DECEMBER

DIRECT SOW

Peas, carrots, radishes, spinach in mild areas.

START INDOORS

Broccoli, cabbage, lettuce for spring crops.

TRANSPLANT

Lettuce, kale, onions where freezes are limited.

FALL GARDEN BASICS

- Check local frost dates
- Start brassicas in shade
- Thin root crops early
- Water new transplants
- Use row cover for freezes

CROP-BY-CROP PLANTING REFERENCE

Approximate windows; adjust for local heat, frost and growing conditions. Zone 9a and 9b dates vary.

CROP	WINDOW	METHOD	SPACING	GROWING NOTE
Carrots	Oct – Mar	DS	2–3 in	Direct sow; thin seedlings
Radishes	Sep – Mar	DS	2–3 in	Repeat every 2 weeks
Beets	Oct – Mar	DS	3–4 in	Thin clustered seedlings
Spinach	Oct – Nov	DS	3–6 in	Wait for cooler soil
Peas	Nov – Mar	DS	2–3 in	Trellis climbing types
Bush beans	Aug – Sep	DS	3–6 in	Frost sensitive
Broccoli	Aug – Jan	SI / TP	18 in	Start indoors in late summer
Cabbage	Aug – Jan	SI / TP	12–18 in	Protect against caterpillars
Cauliflower	Aug – Jan	SI / TP	18–24 in	Needs consistent moisture
Kale	Aug – Jan	SI / TP	12–18 in	Transplant after heat fades
Lettuce	Sep – Mar	DS / SI	8–12 in	Germinates best in cool soil
Collards	Aug – Mar	SI / TP	12–18 in	Pick outer leaves
Tomatoes	Aug – Sep	TP	24–36 in	Only where frost comes late
Peppers	Aug – Sep	TP	18–24 in	Needs warm fall weather
Strawberries	Oct – Nov	TP	12–18 in	Keep crown above soil
Garlic	Oct – Nov	CL	4–6 in	Plant individual cloves