

Fall and Winter Gardening

John Geib

Master Gardener
Compost Specialist
Vegetable Specialist



1

What are we going to learn today

- Focus on Fall / Winter Gardening
- Extending our season
- Enjoying gardening in cool weather

2

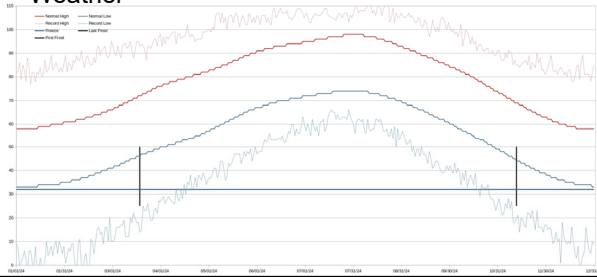
Key Issues for Gardening in West Texas

- Weather
- Water
- Soil
- Water
- Weather

3

Key Issues for Gardening in West Texas

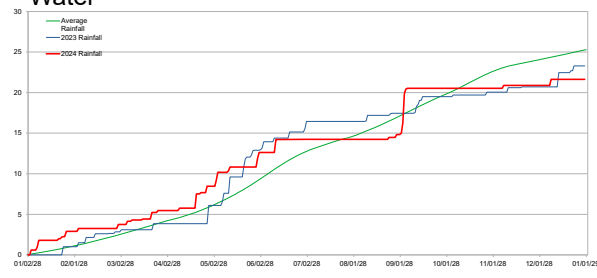
• Weather



4

Key Issues for Gardening in West Texas

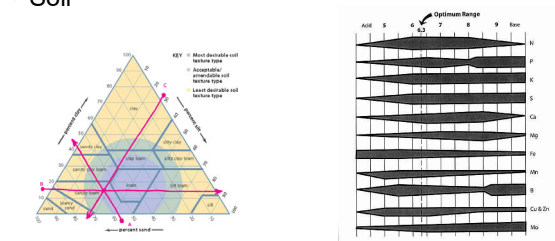
• Water



5

Key Issues for Gardening in West Texas

• Soil



6

Key Issues for Gardening in West Texas

- Water Quality

7

Key Issues for Gardening in West Texas

- Weather



8

What can we Grow?

9

What should we Grow?

- Vegetables that you actually eat
- Varieties that work well for our soil
- Varieties that work well for our weather

10

What can be Grown?

- Continue Summer Crops
- Plant Crops that like or can handle cooler weather
- Plant long season crops
- Cold Weather Crops

11

Continue Summer Crops

- Tomatoes
- Short length crops
- Squash – Summer not Winter
- Beans
- Corn

12

Cool Weather Crops

- Plants that can't take Texas heat
 - Cucumbers
 - Potatoes
 - Carrots
- Plants that can take a light frost
 - Beets
 - Kale
 - Broccoli
 - Lettuce
 - Cabbage
 - Peas
 - Cauliflower
 - Spinach

13

Long Crops

- Onions
- Garlic



14

Cold Weather Crops

- Plants that can take a light frost
 - Beets
 - Lettuce
 - Broccoli
 - Parsley
 - Cabbage
 - Peas
 - Cauliflower
 - Spinach
 - Kale
 - Strawberries

15

Extending the Seasons

- Short Term
- Long Term

16

Short Term Solutions

- Trying to avoid short term cold
 - Frost Cloth
 - Blankets
 - Buckets
 - Garage

17

Long Term Solutions

- Location
- Hoops
- Greenhouses

18

Hoops



19

Greenhouses



20

Greenhouses



21

Keep Studying



22

Keep Studying



23

QUESTIONS?

bcmgtx.org
aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu

Big Country Master Gardeners on Facebook
Big Country Master Gardeners on YouTube
Big Country Master Gardeners on Instagram

325-672-6048 (extension office)
mgardeners@yahoo.com



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetics information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The Texas A&M University system, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts Cooperating.



24

Vegetable Planting Guide

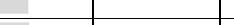
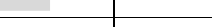
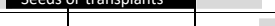
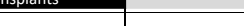
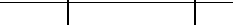
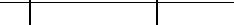
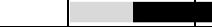
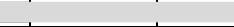
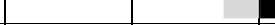
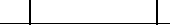
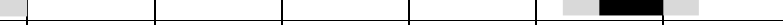
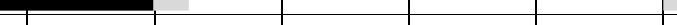
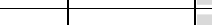
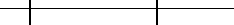
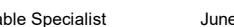


Taylor County and Surrounding Areas

Steve Estes, Taylor County Extension Agent - Agriculture & Natural Resources
Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service

 Ideal planting time
 Marginal planting time

Plant seed unless otherwise noted

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Asparagus (crowns)												
Beans, fava												
Beans, bush, pole and lima												
Beets (plant when temp <75°)												
Broccoli (transplants) (temp 40-75°)												
Brussels sprouts (transplants) (temp <65°)												
Cabbage (transplants) (when temp <80°)												
Carrots												
Cauliflower (transplants) (when temp <75°)												
Corn (sweet)												
Cucumber												
Eggplant (transplants)												
Garlic (cloves)												
Greens, cool season												
Greens, warm season (malabar spinach)												
Kale (seeds or transplants)												
Kohlrabi (seeds or transplants)												
Leeks (transplants) (when temp <75°)												
Lettuce (seed or transplant)												
Melons, cantaloupe and honeydew												
Mustard (seeds or transplants)												
Okra												
Onions, bulbing												
Onions, green (seed or transplants)												
Peas, English, snap and snow												
Peas, Southern (black-eyed/cowpeas)												
Pepper (transplants)												
Potato, Irish (seed potatoes)												
Potato, sweet (slips)												
Pumpkin												
Radish												
Spinach (plant when temp <75°)												
Squash, summer												
Squash, winter												
Swiss chard (seeds or transplants)												
Tomato (transplants)												
Turnip (plant when temp <80°)												
Watermelon												

10-year AVERAGE Frost Dates by Weather Station - Adjust Planting Dates as Needed

Station Name	Last Frost	First Frost
Abilene Regional Airport	Mar 22-29	Nov 11-20
Haskell	Mar 31-Apr 3	Nov 11-20
Sweetwater	Apr 4	Nov 10-15

Compiled by Donna J Gutierrez, Master Gardener Vegetable Specialist

June 2026

Vegetable Planting Guide

Vegetable Type	Planting depth (in)	Row Spacing (in)	Average crop height (ft)	Spring planting dates	Fall planting dates	Days to Maturity
Asparagus	8-12	48-60	5	Feb 1-Mar 1	Not Advised	700
Beans, snap bush	1-1 1/2	24-36	1.5	Mar 18-Apr 15	Aug 1-Sep 15	45-60
Beans, snap pole	1-1 1/2	36-48	6-8	Mar 18-Apr 15	Jul 30-Aug 10	60-70
Beets	1-1 1/2	30-36	1 1/2	Mar 18-Apr 15	Aug 15-Sep 15	65-80
Broccoli	1-1 1/2	36-48	6-8	Mar 18-Apr 15	Jul 25-Aug 15	75-85
Brussels sprouts (transplant)	1	12-24	1.5	Feb 1-Feb 15	Sep 1-Oct 1	50-60
Cabbage (transplant)	1/2	24-36	3	Feb 1-Feb 15	Aug 15-Sep 30	60-80
Brussels Sprouts	1/2	24-36	2	Feb 1-Feb 15	Aug 15-Sep 30	90-100
Cauliflower (transplant)	1/2	24-36	1.5	Feb 1-Feb 15	Aug 15-Sep 30	60-90
Cabbage, Chinese	1/2	18-30	1.5	Feb 1-Feb 15	Aug 10-Aug 30	65-70
Cantaloupe	1	48-96	1	Apr 5-May 1	Jul 30-Aug 10	85-100
Carrot	1/2	12-24	2	Feb 1-Feb 15	Sep 1-Sep 30	70-80
Cauliflower	1/2	24-36	3	Feb 1-Feb 15	Aug 15-Sep 20	70-90
Chard, Swiss	1	18-30	2	Feb 1-Mar 3	Aug 15-Sep 15	45-55
Cilantro	1/2	12-24	2	Feb 1-Apr 1	Sep 1-Sep 30	40-60
Collard (Kale)	1/2	18-36	2	Feb 1-Mar 3	Aug 25-Sep 20	50-80
Corn (sweet)	1/2	24-36	6-8	Mar 18-Apr 30	Aug 10-Aug 25	70-90
Leeks (transplants)	1/2	48-72	1	Mar 18-Apr 30	Aug 25-Sep 10	50-70
Eggplant	1/2	24-36	3	Apr 1-Apr 30	Jul 30-Aug 25	80-90
Garlic	1-2	10-18	1	Feb 1-Feb 15	Nov 15-Dec 31	140-150
Kohlrabi	1/2	12-18	1.5	Feb 1-Mar 10	Aug 15-Sep 20	55-75
Lettuce	1/2	12-24	1	Feb 1-Mar 31	Sep 1-Sep 30	40-80
Okra	1	24-36	5-7	Apr 1-Apr 30	Jul 1-Aug 25	55-65
Onion (plants)	1/2-1	12-18	1.5	Jan 1-Feb 15	Aug 15-Sep 15	80-120
Onion (seed)	1/2	12-18	1.5	Jan 1-Feb 15	Sep 1-Sep 20	90-120
Parsley	1/2	12-24	1.5	Feb 1-Mar 15	Aug 15-Oct 10	70-90
Peas, English	2-3	18-36	2	Jan 20-Mar 3	Sep 15-Nov 1	55-90
Peas, black-eyed	2-3	24-36	2.5	Mar 30-Apr 30	Aug 15-Sep 1	60-70
Peppers	1/2	24-36	2-3	Mar 30-May 30	Jul 30-Aug 25	60-90
Potato, Irish	4	30-36	2	Feb 1-Feb 15	Jul 30-Aug 10	65-100
Potato, Sweet	3-5	36-48	1.5	Apr 15-Jun 1	Not Advised	100-130
Spinach (seeds or transplants)	1-2	48-96	1.5	Mar 25-Apr 25	Aug 10-Aug 25	75-100
Radish	1/2	12-18	0.5	Feb 10-Apr 15	Sep 20-Nov 15	25-40
Spinach	1/2	12-18	1	Jan 20-Mar 10	Sep 15-Nov 1	40-60
Squash, Summer	1-2	24-60	2	Mar 25-Apr 15	Aug 1-Aug 30	50-60
Squash, Winter	1-2	48-78	1	Mar 25-Apr 15	Aug 10-Aug 30	85-100
Tomato	4-7	24-48	3-6	Mar 20-Apr 30	Jun 15-Jul 30	55-100
Turnip, Greens	1/2	12-24	1.5	Feb 1-Mar 10	Aug 25-Nov 1	30
Turnip, Roots	1/2	12-24	1.5	Feb 1-Mar 10	Aug 25-Nov 1	30-60
Watermelon	1-2	60-96	1	Mar 30-Apr 30	Jul 20-Aug 10	80-100

Station Name	Last Frost	First Frost
Abilene Regional Airport	Mar 22-29	Nov 11-20
Haskell	Mar 31-Apr 3	Nov 11-20
Sweetwater	Apr 4	Nov 10-15

Soil Temperature Requirements

The numbers in parenthesis indicate minimum soil temperatures at which each vegetable should be planted in order to obtain optimum germination of seed and growth of transplants. Planting in soil that is too cool can lead to poor germination, seed rot, disease and slow root and top growth of plants. For best results, plant during recommended dates, but only when soil temperatures reach the point designated. Proper temperature should be maintained to a depth of 6 to 8 inches. A kitchen thermometer (probe type - temperature range is 0° to 220°) is the easiest, most available and least expensive product to use for this purpose.

Vegetables from Transplant --> (Optimum Soil Temperature for Planting)

Onions (45) Broccoli (50) Kohlrabi (50) Cabbage (55) Chinese Cabbage (55) Tomatoes (60) Peppers (70) Eggplant (75)

Vegetables from Seed --> (Optimum Soil Temperature for Planting)

Carrots (50) Onions (50) Leeks (50) Peas (50) Potatoes (50) Spinach (50) Lettuce (50) Radish (50) Parsley (55) Chard (55)
 Collards (55) Cabbage (55) Beets (55) Chinese Cabbage (55) Snap Beans (60) Cucumbers (60) Turnips (60) Sweet Corn (65)
 Black-eyed Peas (65) Lima Beans (70) Squash (70) Watermelon (70) Cantaloupe (75) Okra (75) Sweet Potatoes (75)

**Recommended Vegetable Varieties
for Taylor County**

Robert Pritz, County Extension Agent-Horticulture

Phone: 325-672-6048 Email: r-pritz@tamu.edu

1982 Lytle Way, Abilene, TX 79602

taylor.agrilife.org

Asparagus					
		Fordhook	75	Savoy Ace	80
Variety	Days to Harvest	Henderson Bush	65	Savoy King	90
Jersey Giant	300	King of the Garden Pole	90	<u>Chinese</u>	
UC-157	300	Sieva or Carolina	80	China Express	65
Bean		<u>Pinto</u>		Jade Pagoda	65
Variety	Days to Harvest	Arapaho	89	Carrot	
<u>Bush</u>		<u>Pole</u>		Variety	Days to Harvest
Black Turtle (Heirloom)	104	Kentucky Wonder	60	Betasweet (purple)	72
Blue Lake	60	Romano Gold	60	Danver Half Long	75
Contender	55	<u>Shell</u>		Nantes Half Long	70
Derby	57	Dwarf Horticultural	60	Red Core Chantenay	70
Dorabell	57	Beet		Royal Chantenay	65
Dwarf French Tendergreen	55	Variety	Days to Harvest	Scarlet Nantes	70
Earliserve	55	Cylindra	60	Touchon (Heirloom)	62
Early Contender	55	Detroit Dark Red	56	<u>Processing</u>	
Embassy	50	Pacemaker II	50	Danver 126	75
Goldcrop Wax	55	<u>Greens</u>		Gold King	68
Goldkist	50	Avenger	57	Cauliflower	
Great Northern	85	Crosby Green Top	60	Variety	Days to Harvest
Greencrop	50	Lutz Green Leaf	60	Snow Crown	60
Huntington	55	Broccoli		Stardust	83
Jumbo	55	Variety	Days to Harvest	Celeriac	
Midnight	104	Green Comet	40	Variety	Days to Harvest
Navy	85	Packman	50	Large Smooth Prague	110
Roma II	60	Brussels Sprouts		Marble Ball	110
Slenderwax	56	Variety	Days to Harvest	Celery	
Strike	55	Jade Cross	80	Variety	Days to Harvest
Tapia	55	Cabbage		Florida 683	100
Tendercrop	54	Variety	Days to Harvest	Chives	
Tenderpod	50	Blue Dynasty	75	Variety	Days to Harvest
Topcrop	50	Cardinal Red	85	Chinese Chives	80
<u>Lima</u>		Early Jersey Wakefield	53	Garlic Chives	80
Dixie Speckled	75	Mammoth Red Rock	100	Collards	
Dixie White	70	Market Prize	76	Variety	Days to Harvest
Florida Speckled Pole	85	Red Dynasty	75	Blue Max	68

**Recommended Vegetable Varieties
for Taylor County**

Georgia Southern	75	Slice Master	58	Dwarf Blue Curled Scotch	55
Vates	75	Sweet Slice	62	Kohlrabi	
Corn		Sweet Success	55	Variety	Days to Harvest
Variety	Days to Harvest	Dill		Early White Vienna	55
<u>Indian</u>		Variety	Days to Harvest	Grand Duke	45
Indian	100	Bouquet	60	Leek	
Rainbow	110	Long Island Mammoth	60	Variety	Days to Harvest
<u>Popcorn</u>		Eggplant		American Flag	130
Japanese Hulless	83	Variety	Days to Harvest	Electra	150
Robust White	100	Black Beauty	80	Titan	110
Robust Yellow	100	Black Bell	68	Lettuce	
Strawberry	110	Black Magic	72	Variety	Days to Harvest
<u>se: Sugary Enhanced</u>		Classic	75	<u>Butterhead/Bibb</u>	
Argent (White)	80	Florida Market	85	Buttercrunch	70
Bodacious (Yellow)	75	<u>Oriental</u>		<u>Looseleaf</u>	
Golden Queen (Yellow)	92	Ichiban	61	Black Seeded Simpson	45
Seneca Arrowhead (Bicolor)	65	Millionaire	60	Green Ice	45
Seneca Dancer (Bicolor)	90	Tycoon	54	Red Risa	60
Spring Snow (White)	65	Endive		Red Sails	52
sh2: shrunken, supersweet, extra sweet		Variety	Days to Harvest	Salad Bowl (green)	49
Frontier (White)	90	<u>Broad leaf</u>		Salad Bowl (red)	45
Honey n Pearl (Bicolor)	78	Florida Deep Heart	85	Melon	
Mirai	70	<u>Curly leaf</u>		Variety	Days to Harvest
<u>su: Normal Sugary</u>		Green Curled	85	<u>Cantaloupe</u>	
Early Sunglow (Yellow)	63	Salad King	95	Ambrosia	86
Merit (Yellow)	75	Garlic		Caravelle	80
Silver Queen (White)	91	Variety	Days to Harvest	Israeli	90
Sweet G-90 (Bicolor)	90	California Early	120	Magnum 45	80
Cucumber		Elephant	120	Minnesota Midget	70
Variety	Days to Harvest	French Mild Silverskin (Heirloom)	120	Mission	80
<u>Greenhouse</u>		Mexican Purple	120	Perlita	85
Saladin	50	Greens, Specialty		Rocky Sweet	85
<u>Pickling</u>		Variety	Days to Harvest	TAM Uvalde	85
Calypso	52	<u>Cool Season</u>		<u>Honeydew</u>	
Carolina	49	Joi Choi	50	TAM Dew	100
County Fair 87	48	Horseradish		Mustard	
Homemade	55	Variety	Days to Harvest	Variety	Days to Harvest
<u>Slicing</u>		Maliner Kren	150	Southern Giant Curled	50
Burpless	55	Kale		Tendergreen	40
Dasher II	60	Variety	Days to Harvest	Okra	

**Recommended Vegetable Varieties
for Taylor County**

Variety	Days to Harvest	<u>Snap</u>		Variety	Days to Harvest
Annie Oakley	50	Oregon Sugar Pod	65	<u>Irish</u>	
Blondy	50	Sugar Ann	60	Atlantic	95
Clemson Spineless	55	Super Sugar	65	Kennebec (White)	80
Emerald	58	<u>Southern</u>		Norland (Red)	80
Lee	50	Arkansas Razorback	65	Red LaSoda	100
Onion		Blackeye #5	65	Yukon Gold	90
Variety	Days to Harvest	Colossus	65	Pumpkin	
<u>Bulb</u>		Mississippi Silver	65	Variety	Days to Harvest
Alabaster (Intermediate Day)	110	Pink Eye Purple Hull	65	<u>Large</u>	
Candy (Long Day)	125	Texas Cream 8	75	Aladdin	110
Carmen (Long Day)	125	Texas Pinkeye	60	Connecticut Field	120
Cimarron (Intermediate Day)	110	Zipper Cream	75	Fairytale	125
Crystal Wax (Short Day)	60	Pepper		Magic Lantern	110
Granex (YWR, Short Day)	100	Variety	Days to Harvest	Merlin	120
Red Burgandy (Short Day)	110	<u>Hot</u>		Prizewinner	120
Riviera (Intermediate Day)	100	Big Jim (Chile)	85	<u>Small</u>	
Sterling (Long Day)	125	Delicias Jalapeno	70	Jack Be Little	95
Texas Grano 438 (Intermediate Day)	110	Firenza Jalapeno	70	Munchkin	100
White Sweet Spanish (Long Day)	125	Habanero	100	Mystic	100
Yellow Sweet Spanish (Long Day)	125	Hidalgo Serrano	85	Small Sugar	95
Yellow TX Supersweet 1015 (Short Day)	110	Hungarian Yellow Wax	70	Radish	
Yula (Intermediate Day)	103	Jalapeno	70	Variety	Days to Harvest
Parsley		Long Red Cayenne	65	Champion	20
Variety	Days to Harvest	Sonora	85	Cherriette	24
Banquet	80	Super Chili	85	Cherry Belle	22
Moss Curled	75	TAM Serrano Hidalgo	70	White Icicle	30
Plain Italian	78	Tula Jalapeno	85	Rutabaga	
Parsnip		Vera Cruz Jalapeno	65	Variety	Days to Harvest
Variety	Days to Harvest	<u>Sweet</u>		American Purple Top	90
Harris Model	120	Admiral (Bell)	84	Salsify	
Large Hollow Crown	130	Big Bertha (Bell, Green)	70	Variety	Days to Harvest
Pea		Golden Summer (Bell)	65	Sandwich Island Mammoth	118
Variety	Days to Harvest	Jupiter (Bell, Red)	75	Spinach	
<u>English</u>		King Arthur (Bell)	65	Variety	Days to Harvest
Early Snap	58	Purple Beauty (Bell, Purple)	70	Melody	42
Knight	60	Spanish Spice (Cayenne, Green/Red)	68	Squash	
Little Marvel	63	Summer Sweet (Bell, Yellow)	70	Variety	Days to Harvest
Mammoth Melting Sugar	70	TAM Mild Jalapeno	70	<u>Summer</u>	
Wando	68	Potato		Burpee's Butterstick (Yellow, Straightneck)	50

**Recommended Vegetable Varieties
for Taylor County**

Dixie (Yellow, Cookneck)	45	Variety	Days to Harvest	Matrix	85
Eight Ball Tigress (Zucchini)	35	Toma Verde	60	Summersweet 5244	90
Gold Rush (Zucchini)	52	Tomato		Tri-X 313	85
Multipik (Yellow Straightneck)	50	Variety	Days to Harvest		
Patty Pan (White, Scallop)	60	<u>Large >12 oz</u>			
Peter Pan (Green, Scallop)	50	Super Fantastic (I)	70		
President (Zucchini)	49	<u>Medium 4-11 oz</u>			
Saffron (Straightneck)	44	Carnival (D)	70		
Senator (Zucchini)	41	Celebrity (D)	70		
Seneca Zucchini	50	Champion (I)	70		
Sunburst (Scallop)	50	First Lady (I)	66		
Sundrop (Yellow)	62	Porter Improved (I)	78		
Superpik (Yellow Straightneck)	50	Sunmaster (D)	74		
Supersett (Yellow Straightneck)	50	<u>Small <3 oz</u>			
Zucchini Elite	48	Cherry Grande (D)	74		
<u>Winter</u>		Small Fry (D)	65		
Ambercup	100	Sweet 100 (Cherry, I)	65		
Burgess Buttercup	95	Turnip			
Carnival (Acorn)	85	Variety	Days to Harvest		
Cream of the Crop	75	<u>Roots & Greens</u>			
Sweet Mama Kabocha	85	Just Right	50		
Sweet Meat	95	Purple Top White Globe	50		
Table King (Acorn)	75	Shogoin	42		
Table Ace (Acorn)	75	Watermelon			
Vegetable Spaghetti Types	100	Variety	Days to Harvest		
Waltham (Butternut)	95	Big Stripe	85		
Sweetpotato		Bush Sugar Baby	75		
Variety	Days to Harvest	Crimson Sweet	85		
Hernandez	90	Jamboree	88		
Vardaman	100	Mickylee	85		
Swiss Chard		OrangeGlo	95		
Variety	Days to Harvest	Pinata	85		
Bright Lights	55	Royal Jubilee	95		
Fordhook Giant	50	Stars and Stripes	85		
Large White Rib	60	Summer Flavor 800	85		
Lucullus	52	Summer Gold (Yellow)	85		
Rhubarb Chard	60	Super Gold	85		
Rhubarb Red	59	Verona	80		
Silverado	55	<u>Seedless</u>			
Tomatillo		Gem Dandy	80		