



Question of the Week

Q: When can I plant my vegetable seed and seedlings (transplants) outdoors?

A: In the southern part of New Hampshire it is usually safe to plant most vegetables that are sensitive to frost around May 30. In the northern part of the state it is probably smart to wait until the end of the first week in June. In both cases you need to be prepared to cover your plants in case we get a rare, last frost. Keep in mind that some heat-loving vegetables (tomatoes, melons, peppers) do not like to be planted into cold soils. Either pre-warm the soil with black plastic or wait until the very end of May or the first week in June to plant these.

Here is a general guideline for planting vegetables:

Very Early Spring (3-4 weeks before last frost date): broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, onion, lettuce and parsley transplants; spinach, pea and lettuce seed

Early Spring (2-3 weeks before last frost): swiss chard transplants: beet, carrot, radish and swiss chard seed

Spring (on last frost date): summer squash and tomato transplants; bush and pole bean, corn, summer squash seed

Late Spring (after last spring frost): cucumber, eggplant, melon and pepper transplants; cucumber, melon and winter squash seed

Got questions? UNH Cooperative Extension's Family, Home & Garden Education Center Info Line offers practical help finding answers for your lawn and garden questions. Call toll free at 1-877-398-4769, M-F, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., or e-mail us at answers@unh.edu