



# Timing Vegetable Transplants

Timing is an important part of starting seeds indoors. If started too soon, the plants may outgrow the containers before it is warm enough to transfer them outdoors. Plants started too early also tend to become potbound and have spindly growth. Time required varies with growing conditions.

Most vegetables should not be set outdoors until all danger of frost is past. (The exceptions to this are lettuce, parsley, celery, onion, cabbage, kale, which in most cases can withstand a *light* frost.)

We generally consider May 30<sup>th</sup> as safe for sensitive crops. Every now and then we get an early June frost, so have plant protectors handy! Harden plants out-of-doors or in cold frame before transplanting.

| Vegetables      | Germinating Temperature | Days to Germinate | Seedling Growing Temperature | Weeks from Seeding to Setting Out |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Broccoli        | 68-86 F                 | 3-10              | 55-60 F                      | 5-8                               |
| Brussel Sprouts | 68-86 F                 | 3-10              | 55-60 F                      | 4-8                               |
| Cabbage         | 68-86 F                 | 3-10              | 55-60 F                      | 5-8                               |
| Cauliflower     | 68-86 F                 | 3-10              | 55-60 F                      | 5-8                               |
| Celery          | 50-68 F                 | 9-21              | 55-60 F                      | 10-12                             |
| Cucumber        | 68-86 F                 | 3-10              | 60 F                         | 3-4                               |
| Eggplant        | 68-86 F                 | 7-14              | 55-60 F                      | 6-9                               |
| Endive          | 68 F                    | 5-9               | 55-60 F                      | 4-6                               |
| Kale            | 68-86 F                 | 3-10              | 55-60 F                      | 4-7                               |
| Kohrabi         | 68-86 F                 | 3-10              | 55-60 F                      | 4-6                               |
| Leeks           | 65-68 F                 | 7-14              | 55 F                         | 10-12                             |
| Lettuce         | 68 F                    | 4-10              | 55-60 F                      | 3-6                               |
| Muskmelon       | 68-86 F                 | 4-10              | 60 F                         | 3-4                               |
| Onion           | 65-86 F                 | 6-10              | 55 F                         | 4-6                               |
| Parsley         | 75 F                    | 11-28             | 55 F                         | 6-10                              |
| Peppers         | 68-86 F                 | 6-20              | 60 F                         | 6-10                              |
| Squash          | 68-86 F                 | 4-7               | 60 F                         | 3-4                               |
| Tomatoes        | 68-86 F                 | 5-14              | 60 F                         | 6-10                              |
| Watermelon      | 68-86 F                 | 4-14              | 60 F                         | 3-4                               |

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