

# Home Grounds Fact Sheet

## Harvesting Suggestions for Vegetable Gardeners

	Harvest at Prime 1	Short Holding Period 2	Long Holding Period 3	Frost Tolerance 4	Comment
Asparagus	X			none	Makes best quality in warm weather.
Beans, snap	X	a		none	Keep picked to prolong harvest.
Beets			X	good	Can start harvest when beets are small.
Broccoli	X	a		good	Side shoots lengthen harvest period.
Brussels sprouts		X	a	very good	Harvest sprouts when firm.
Cabbage		X	a	some	Good until heads split.
Carrots			X	good	Can start harvest when carrots are small.
Cauliflower	X	X	a	some	Strip off older leaves.
Celery		X	a	some	Protect curd from sun.
Cucumbers	X			none	Keep picked to prolong harvest.
Eggplant		X		none	Brown seeds - overmature for eating.
Greens		X	a	good	Harvest older leaves - allow new to grow.
Lettuce	X	a		some	Leaf lettuce can be harvested over a fairly long period.
Muskmelons	X			none	Harvest at full slip and finish ripening in house.
Onions, bulb			X	good	Harvest at usable size before bulbing.
Onions, green		X		good	Pull bulbs after tops fall over and dry.
Parsnips			X	very good	Low temperature increases sweetness.
Peas	X			some	Make 2 or 3 picks.
Pepper		X		none	Green fruits ready when fairly firm.
Potato			X	some	Usable at any size. Let mature for storage.
Pumpkins			X	none	Harvest before hard frost.
Radish	X			good	Pass usable stage quickly.
Rhubarb		X		good	Pull rather than cut stalks.
Spinach		X		good	Suitable until seedstalks form or leaves become tough.
Squash, summer	X			none	Keep picked to prolong harvest.
Squash, winter			X	none	Harvest before frost after rind hardens.
Sweet Corn		a		slightly	Opinions vary on best harvest stage.
Swiss Chard			X	good	Harvest older leaves - let new leaves grow.
Tomato		X		none	Can be picked at turning and house ripened.
Turnip			X	very good	Tops make good greens.
Watermelon		X		none	Must be fully mature at harvest.

1. Crops should be harvested at prime condition, which is of short duration.
  2. Product holds good quality for 1 to 2 weeks when left in the garden.
  3. Product holds good quality for 3 to 6 weeks when left in the garden.
  4. Frost tolerance of the plant and product. Sometimes the foliage protects fruit, such as tomatoes, at first frost.
- a = crop may remain in good condition longer during cool weather in the fall.*

# LAST PLANTING DATES FOR VEGETABLES ON LONG ISLAND

## BY JULY 1

Lima Beans  
Brussels sprouts\*  
Cabbage\*  
Celeriac  
Celery\*  
Edible Cowpeas  
Eggplant\*  
Herbs, most  
Leeks  
Okra  
Peppers\* (main season)  
Popcorn  
Edible Soybeans  
Sweet Corn (main season-July 15)  
Tomatoes

## BY AUGUST 7

Beans, snap (pole)  
Cabbage (main season)  
Carrots  
Cauliflower\*  
Cucumbers  
Lettuce, head  
Lettuce, Romaine  
Onions (green)  
Parsley  
Parsnip  
Rutabagas  
Squash, summer

## BY AUGUST 20

Beans, snap  
Beets  
Broccoli\*  
Cabbage (early var.)\*  
Cauliflower  
Collards  
Endive  
Kale  
Kohlrabi  
Mustard  
Peas  
Radishes, Chinese  
Swiss Chard

## BY SEPTEMBER 1

Lettuce, bab  
Lettuce, leaf  
Spinach  
Turnip

## BY SEPTEMBER 10

Radishes

\* Transplants set in field (direct seed 2 - 3 weeks earlier)

*Note: Success at these last dates will vary for district and year.*

*Onions should be seeded by April 20 or transplanted by May 10.*