

Vegetable Gardens for the Rio Grande Valley

Fall Planted or Cool season Crops

Vegetable gardening is the major pastime for Americans. For us in Cameron County, Texas we can garden nearly year-around which allows us the luxury to grow both the familiar and new or unusual vegetable varieties. Part of the enjoyment of gardening is choosing and purchasing vegetable seeds and or plants.

Seeds. It is recommended that crops with small seeds (pin-head size or a little larger) be planted in trays filled with seedling mix (trays and mix should be available at your nursery/garden center). Grow seedlings until they are 6-inches tall, then transplant to your garden. Seeds of root crops such as: beets, carrots, radish, onion and others although small, are best sown directly in the garden. Plus large seeds of crops like: cucumber, squash and melons are best sown directly in the garden. Always remember to read and follow sowing instructions (i.e. seed sowing depth) listed on your seed packet. For sowing times for specific crops in Cameron County, Texas, observe the dates listed below:

Note: The planting times listed below will be for seeds and seedlings. If you are starting with plants then you can delay planting by one month and reduce the days to harvest by 10 to 14 days. Many of the more common vegetables are available as plants at your local nursery/garden center. (Primary information source: Vegetable Crops of the Lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Weslaco, Texas tel. 956-968-5581

Article written by the Cameron County Horticulture Education Committee.

Questions or Comments write to: Cameron County Master Gardeners Association, 1390 W. Expressway 83, San Benito, TX 78586-3869.

Phone: 956-361-8236 or Fax: 956-361-8289 or email:

cameroncountymastergardeners@gmail.com

Beans (green, snap, lima & butter)

plant: August thru September

harvest: 50 to 80 days later

Beets

plant: September thru October

harvest: 50 to 90 days later

Broccoli

plant: August thru November

harvest: 80 to 100 days later

Brussel sprouts

plant: August thru September

harvest 110 to 140 days later

Cabbage

plant: August thru November

harvest 90 to 120 days later

Cantaloupe

plant: mid-August thru mid-September

harvest: 85 to 90 days later

Carrots

plant: mid-August thru November

harvest: 90 to 100 days later

Cauliflower

plant: August thru October

harvest: 90 to 120 days later

Celery

plant: September

harvest: 100 to 160 days later

Chard, Swiss

plant: mid-September thru December

harvest: 60 to 75 days later

Cilantro

plant: late September thru December

harvest: 50 to 60 days later

Collard, kale & kohlrabi

plant: September thru December

harvest: 40 to 60 days later

Cucumbers

plant: mid-August thru mid-September

harvest: 65 to 70 days later

Dandelion

plant: mid-September thru mid-November

harvest: 75 to 80 days later

Dill

plant: mid-September thru mid-November

harvest: 60 to 80 days later

Eggplant

plant: mid-June thru mid-August

harvest: 100 to 120 days later

Garlic

plant: October thru mid-November

harvest: 90 to 120 days later

Jicama

plant: late August

harvest: 90 to 120 days later

Leek

plant: October thru December

harvest: 90 to 100 days later

Lettuce (leaf)

plant: mid-September thru December

harvest: 40 to 60 days later

Mustard greens

plant: September thru mid-December

harvest: 30 to 50 days later

Onion

plant: September thru November

harvest: 100 to 150 days later

Parsley

plant: mid-July thru November

harvest: 90 days later

Peas (sweet)

plant: October

harvest: 70 to 80 days later

Peas (southern)

plant: October

harvest: 65 to 75 days later

Pepper (sweet)

plant: mid-June thru mid August

harvest: 90 to 100 days later

Potato (Irish)

plant: tubers sections mid-September or early-January
harvest: 90 to 100 days later

Radish

plant: September thru December
harvest: 25 to 30 days later

Spinach

plant: September thru December
harvest: 45 to 60 days later

Squash (winter)

plant: August
harvest 40 to 60 days later

Tomato

plant: August
harvest: 90 to 120 days later

Turnip

plant: September thru December
harvest: 50 to 70 days later

Watermelon

plant: mid August thru mid-September
harvest: 90 to 100 days later