

CHEAT SHEET for Cynthia Brian's Top 10 Direct Sow Vegetables

Temperatures, planting directions, germination, and harvesting may differ depending on your seed selection. Buy a reliable soil thermometer to eliminate the guesswork. If you have a particular date that you want to harvest, work the math backwards to determine your planting dates.

Legend: *=Succession planting recommended

Arugula: Plant in soil temperatures of 50-60 degrees, 6 inches apart. Germinates in 7-10 days, edible within 40 days. *

Beet: Plant in soil temperatures of 65-75 degrees, 6 inches apart. Germinates in 10-15 days, edible within 55 days. *

Corn: Plant in soil temperatures of 65-75 degrees, 8 inches apart. Germinates in 4-10 days, 112 days until edible.

Kale: Plant in soil temperatures of 65-85 degrees, 24 inches apart. Germinates in 5-10 days, edible within 50-65 days.

Leek: Plant in soil temperatures of 60-65 degrees, 6 inches apart. Germinates in 5-10 days, edible 80-145 days.

Lettuce: Plant in soil temperatures of 55-65 degrees, 6 inches apart. Germinates in 7-14 days, edible in 45-70 days. *

Pepper: Plant in soil temperature of 70-85 degrees, 12-18 inches apart. Germinates in 6-12 days, edible in 70-100 days.

Squash: Plant in soil temperatures 65-80 degrees. Hill 6 seeds, thin to 3 seeds per hill with hills spaced 48-72 inches apart. Summer squash is edible within 50 days, winter squash within 100 days.

Tomato: Plant in soil temperatures of 70-75 degrees, 36-48 inches apart. Germinates in 7-14 days, 70-90 days until edible.

Watermelon: Plant in soil temperatures of 70-85 degrees. Hill 6 seeds, thin to 3 plants per hill with hills spaced 72 inches apart. 4-10 days until germination, 110 days until edible.

Basil, chives, cilantro, dill, fennel, mustard, and parsley are easily grown from seeds. Pop a few seeds between your veggie plantings. To thrill children, let them plant **radish** and **carrot** seeds as they germinate quickly. For **cucumbers, eggplant, oregano, sage, tarragon, thyme, and rosemary**, I prefer to plant seedlings from small 2 or 4 inch pots. Cut greens daily for a never-ending salad of healthy feasting.



Ruby Swiss chard and Italian parsley are ready to be harvested, while pole beans are climbing.

Sprinkle a palette of color into your landscape with these sure fire flower seeds:

Bachelor Buttons
Blackeyed Susan
Calendula
Chinese Lantern
Cosmos
Forget-Me-Nots
Hollyhocks
Marigolds
Nasturtiums
Nigela
Poppies
Sweet Alyssum
Sunflowers
Zinnias

Planting by seed is easy on your wallet and relatively stress free. When the seed doesn't germinate, sow again. For instant gratification, experiment with the new "baby" varieties of crops that can go from seed to table within 40 days or so. If you are looking for a truly quick kitchen crop, grow sprouts. Add seeds to a small container of water and eat as the green shoots "sprout."

Sow, grow-vertical, horizontal, circular, or as a ménage. From seed to shining seed-expect wonders!

Happy Gardening! Happy Growing
 Cynthia Brian



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PRUNING NOW PAYS LATER

The type of pruning your tree gets is critical to the health, longevity, safety and appearance. Proper care for your tree is important and pruning a healthy strong tree now will help with the prevention of storm damage.

So don't wait until it's too late, have a complete inspection

by your local ISA Certified Arborist at Advance Tree Service and Landscaping for all your tree care needs.

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