

Vegetable Sowing Calendar for the Alice Springs Region

DRDPIFR, Darwin

The following tips should help you on the way to producing a range of fresh vegetables:

1. Select a site that receives full sun year round. Sites that provide some filtered shade for part of the day during the hot summer months may also be suitable.
2. Vegetable seedlings and seed can be planted into raised beds or straight into tilled soil that has not been formed into beds. If drainage is required during wet periods, raised beds are preferable.
3. A base fertiliser application consisting of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium can be incorporated into the soil prior to planting. Suitable organic fertilisers can also be used.
4. The soil can be prepared by digging and turning the soil with a spade or by using machinery such as a rotary hoe. When a rotary hoe is used care should be taken not to over till the soil.
5. Sow seed according to directions on the packet regarding row spacings, seed spacing and sowing depth.
6. Do not over fertilise the soil as seed germination may be impaired and the sensitive roots of young seedlings may be burnt.
7. Use mulch between seedlings after transplanting to cool the soil, conserve moisture and prevent weed germination.
8. Very fine seed of some vegetables such as carrots can be difficult to sow evenly and can be easily washed out of the soil. Such seed can be purchased as seed tape. Seed tape has the seed attached to a paper tape at the ideal spacing which makes sowing easy.
9. Strong seedlings should be selected for transplanting as these will establish rapidly and give good yield.
10. When transplanting seedlings, ensure that they are watered in immediately after transplanting.
11. Keep soil around seeds and seedlings moist. Do not over-water or allow the soil to dry out as this will result in poor germination or kill seedlings.
12. Seedlings can be given a boost after transplanting with a liquid fertiliser. The fertiliser can be applied over the leaves. Mix at the recommended rate. Apply liquid fertilisers to the foliage of plants only during the cooler parts of the day.
13. Remove weeds as they germinate. Control insects and fungi if they affect plant health.
14. Changing the types of vegetables grown in a garden (crop rotation) helps to control weeds, pests and diseases and assists in maintaining soil fertility. As a rough guide, legumes (e.g. peas or broad beans), should be followed by a fruit crop (e.g. tomatoes or cucumber), which should be followed by a leaf crop (e.g. cabbage or lettuce), which should be followed by a root crop (e.g. carrots).
15. Garden hygiene is important. All crop residues should be dug in or composted as soon as harvesting is complete, as pests and diseases can build up in residues.
16. All diseased plants should be removed and disposed of - not composted.
17. See the back of this sheet for the sowing calendar.



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Vegetable	Sowing times													S - seedling D - direct seed C - crown T - tuber	Sowing depth (mm)	Seedlings emerge (days)	Spacings (cm)		Time to picking (weeks)
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Rows				Plants		
	Artichoke (suckers)																	D	
Asparagus (2 year crowns)														S/D/C	150-200	-	100	50	16-24
Bean Climber														D	30-40	7-10	120	12	10-12
Bean French														D	30-40	7-10	60	10	10
Beetroot														D	20	8-14	30	10-12	10-12
Broad bean*														D	50-80	8-14	90	15	20-24
Broccoli														S	5-10	6-10	90	75	12
Brussel sprout														S	5-10	6-10	90	75	16-20
Cabbage														S	10	6-10	60-90	45-60	16-24
Capsicum														S	5-10	14-28	100	50	16-20
Carrot														D	5-10	10-21	30	4-8	12-16
Cauliflower														S	5-10	6-10	75-90	60-90	16-24
Chinese spinach/Bok choy														D	10	6-10	30-40	30	8-10
Cucumber														S/D	10-20	6-10	90	90	12-16
Lettuce														S/D	5-10	6-10	30	30	8-12
Marrow														D	50	6-10	180	180	16
Mustard green														D	10	6-8	30-60	10-12	4
Okra														D	5-8	10-14	100	50	16-20
Onion														S/D	10-20	10-14	30	12-15	24-30
Parsnip														D	20	21-28	30	5-10	20
Pea														D	40-50	7-10	60	8-12	16
Potato														T	120-150	-	90	30	16-20
Pumpkin														D	50	6-10	180	180	16
Radish														D	10	5-8	30	5	6-8
Rhubarb														C	100	-	50	50	12-16
Rhubarb														S/D	10-15	10-21	50	50	16-20
Rockmelon														S/D	10-20	10-20	90	90	12-16
Shallot														S/D	10	-	30	10-15	12
Silver beet														S/D	20	10-14	60	30	10-12
Spinach														S/D	20	14-21	45	30	10-12
Swede														D	10	6-10	50	15-20	12-16
Sweet corn														D	30	6-10	70	30	12
Sweet potato														T	100-120	-	90-100	30	16-24
Tomato														S/D	5	10-14	100	50-100	12-16
Turnip														D	10	6-10	50	15-20	12-16
Watermelon														S/D	10-20	6-10	180	90	16
Zucchini														S/D	50	6-10	200	150	8-12