

# URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

## Growing and Harvesting in Missouri

Missouri encompasses USDA Hardiness Zones 5-7. The top quarter of the state across the entire width is in Zone 5, and the Zones increase the further south in the state. Zone 7 is only present in the southernmost tip of Missouri. Frost dates begin as early as the first day of October and has late as mid-October. The frost ends as early as mid-April and last as long as to mid-May.

### What to plant and when:

Weather in Missouri is pretty mild, as the state doesn't reside in any drastic USDA Hardiness Zones. However, follow the chart below to ensure you are planting your vegetables at the correct time to allow for the best growth patterns.

#### Zone 5:

- **March:** Begin broccoli inside.
- **April:** Begin beets, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, kale, lettuce, onion, peas, peppers, spinach and tomatoes inside. Plant broccoli outside.
- **May:** Begin beans, corn, cucumber and squash inside. Plant beets, broccoli, carrots, kale, lettuce, peas and spinach outside.
- **June:** Plant Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, onion, peppers and tomatoes outside.
- **July:** Plant corn, cucumber and squash outside. begin beets, broccoli, kale, lettuce, peas and spinach inside.
- **August:** Plant beets, broccoli, kale, lettuce, peas and spinach outside. Begin carrots inside.
- **September:** Plant carrots outside.



[Missouri Planting Calendar on ufseeds.com](http://Missouri Planting Calendar on ufseeds.com)

#### Zone 6:

- **March:** Begin beets, broccoli, cauliflower, kale, lettuce, onions, peas, peppers, spinach and tomatoes inside.
- **April:** Plant beets, broccoli, cauliflower, kale, lettuce, peas and spinach outside. begin carrots outside.
- **May:** Begin beans, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, corn, cucumber and squash inside. Plant carrots, onions, peppers and tomatoes outside.
- **June:** Plant squash, beans, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, corn and cucumbers outside.
- **July:** Begin beet, broccoli and spinach inside.
- **August:** Plant beets, broccoli and spinach outside. Begin carrots, kale, lettuce and peas inside.
- **September:** Plant carrots, kale, lettuce and peas outside.



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### Zone 7:

- **February:** Begin broccoli, cauliflower and peas indoors.
- **March:** Begin beets, cabbage, carrots, kale, lettuce, onions, peppers, spinach and tomatoes indoors. Near the end of March, transplant broccoli, carrots, peas and cauliflower outdoors.
- **April:** Transplant kale, lettuce and spinach outdoors. Begin beans and Brussels sprouts indoors.
- **May:** Transplant onions, peppers and tomatoes outdoors. Begin corn, cucumbers and squash indoors.
- **June:** Transplant beans, Brussels sprouts, corn, cucumbers and squash outdoors.
- **July:** Begin cabbage indoors.
- **August:** Begin beets, broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, kale, lettuce, peas and spinach indoors. Near the end of the month, transplant cabbage outdoors.
- **September:** Transplant beets, broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, kale, lettuce, peas and spinach outdoors for the fall harvest.

### Missouri's soil and how it affects agriculture:

Missouri's state soil is called Menfro, and this soil is commonly used to grow crops such as corn, soybeans, small grain, forage crops and ordinary vegetables and fruits. This soil is usually very deep, permeable and drains well. This soil is usually found next to both the Missouri and Mississippi rivers, and it is comprised of silt loam. In addition to being a great soil for planting for agricultural and home uses, since the soil is very deeper, it is desirable to build upon as well.

Missouri includes soils from the following four dominant soil orders:



[Vegetable seeds and plants available at ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)

**Mollisols:** These soils are in the northwestern corner of the state. These soils are fertile and excellent for crop growth. Mollisols are darker in color than most soils.

**Alfisols:** These soils take up the largest portion of the state, beginning in the middle of the state and stretching across the width all the way to the eastern border. Alfisols are fertile soils that are excellent for crop growth.

**Ultisols:** This dominant soil order is present in the southern part of the state. Ultisols are full of hard clay, and gardeners should amend the soil with lime and fertilizer to make it more usable for agriculture.

**Entisols:** These dominant soil orders are in the southeastern most tip of the state. Entisols are sometimes able to be used for crop growth, although some types of these soils are sandy or shallow and don't hold moisture well. Amend sandy soils with compost to create a more durable soil for growth.



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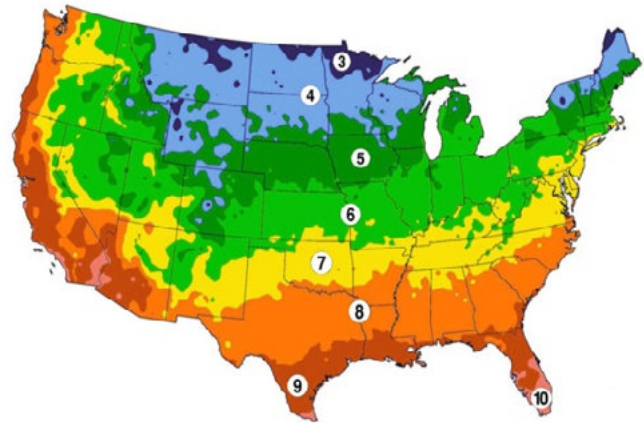
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## Average rainfall in Missouri:

Rainfall throughout the state of Missouri depends on the placement of the city or town. In Southern Missouri, average annual precipitation ranges from 43.7 inches a year in Ozark Beach to 51.6 inches a year in Caruthersville. In Central Missouri, average annual precipitation ranges from 39.1 inches a year in Kansas City to 48.2 inches a year in Rolla. In Northern Missouri, average annual precipitation ranges from 35.6 inches a year in St. Joseph to 43.2 inches a year in Moberly.



[USDA Hardiness Gardening Zone Finder](#)  
on [ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)

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