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