



Vegetable Sowing Calendar for Darwin & Katherine Regions

DRDPIFR, Darwin

The following tips should get you on the way to successfully grow vegetables:

1. Select a site which receives full sun, is not subject to water-logging during the wet season and is protected from strong winds.
2. It is advisable to plant out on raised beds at least 10-15 cm high to facilitate drainage.
3. Liming will be necessary in virgin soils. Apply lime at least six weeks before planting and work it into the top 10-15 cm of the soil.
4. The basic fertiliser should be worked into the soil two to three weeks before planting.
5. The soil should be worked up with a garden fork to just loosen it. Rotary hoeing is not recommended.
6. Use fresh seed from a reputable source and follow the directions on the packet.
7. Avoid seed and fertiliser contact during sowing to prevent fertiliser burn, which will often result in poor germination.
8. Mulch between plants and seed rows immediately after planting to cool the soil, conserve moisture and prevent weed germination.
9. During December to February it may be difficult to seed directly, especially when using small seed, which may be washed away by heavy rains. The home gardener can overcome this problem by raising seedlings under cover, using jiffy pots, or similar containers (see Agnote B18 'Raising Vegetable Seedlings in Containers').
10. Strong vigorous seedlings will help in achieving a good yield. Therefore, extra care in the production of seedlings will be rewarding.
11. If transplanting do it late afternoon or on a cool, cloudy day.
12. Immediately following transplanting, water the plant using a weak trace element/fertiliser solution (commercial preparations are available). If "damping off" occurs a fungicide can be used as a drench poured over the seedling. For advice on fungicides contact DRDPIFR.
13. Regular inspection and early treatment of weeds, insect pests and diseases will improve crop yield.
14. Crop rotation helps in the control of weeds, pests and diseases while maintaining soil fertility. As a rough guide, legumes (e.g. snake beans) should be followed by a fruit crop (e.g. cucumber), which should be followed by a leaf crop (e.g. silverbeet), which should be followed by a root crop (e.g. sweet potato).
15. Fallow with a thick layer of organic mulch over the wet season and turn in for the next season.
16. Garden hygiene is important. All crop residues should be dug in as soon as harvesting is complete as pests and diseases can build up in residues left standing for any length of time.
17. All diseased plants should be removed and burnt.
18. Weeds should be slashed or dug in regularly to prevent seed set. Remember one year's seeds make seven years' weeds.
19. See the back of this sheet for the sowing calendar.

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| Vegetable | Sowing Times | | | | | | | | | | | | S - seed D - direct R - rhizome | 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 | | |
| | Asian melon | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | D |
| Basil | | | | | | | | | | | | | | S | 5 | 4 | 30 | 30 | |
| Beans | | | | | | | | | | | | | | D | 10 | 5 | 75 | 20 | 6-8 |
| Beetroot | | | | | | | | | | | | | | D | 10-15 | 8-14 | 20-30 | 8-10 | 10-12 |
| Bitter melon | | | | | | | | | | | | | | D | 15 | 5 | 300 | 200 | 11 |
| Bok choy/Pak choi | | | | | | | | | | | | | | S | 5 | 5-7 | 30 | 20 | 4-6 |
| Broccoli | | | | | | | | | | | | | | S/D | 5-8 | 6-10 | 45-60 | 45-60 | 7-10 |
| Broccoli Chinese/Kai Lan | | | | | | | | | | | | | | S | 5 | 5-7 | 30 | 20 | 4-6 |
| Brussel Sprouts | | | | | | | | | | | | | | S/D | 5-8 | 6-10 | 60-75 | 60-75 | 16-20 |
| Cabbage | | | | | | | | | | | | | | S/D | 5-8 | 6-10 | 40-70 | 40-70 | 8-16 |
| Capsicum | | | | | | | | | | | | | | S/D | 5-8 | 14-28 | 80 | 40-50 | 12-14 |
| Carrot (baby) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | D | 3-5 | 10-21 | 25-30 | 3-5 | 16-20 |
| Cauliflower | | | | | | | | | | | | | | S/D | 5-8 | 6-10 | 50-75 | 50-75 | 7-12 |
| Cherry tomatoes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | S | 10 | 7-10 | 300 | 30 | 7-8 |
| Chilli | | | | | | | | | | | | | | S | 10 | 7-10 | 300 | 30 | 10 |
| Chinese cabbage/Won bok | | | | | | | | | | | | | | D | 5-8 | 6-10 | 30-40 | 30-40 | 8-10 |
| Chinese mustard/Kai choy | | | | | | | | | | | | | | D | 5-8 | 6-8 | 20-30 | 20-30 | 4-6 |
| Choy sum/Caisin | | | | | | | | | | | | | | D | 5-8 | 6-10 | 30-40 | 30-40 | 8-10 |
| Coriander | | | | | | | | | | | | | | S | 5 | 4 | 30 | 30 | |
| Cucumber | | | | | | | | | | | | | | D | 10-15 | 6-10 | 100-150 | 40-60 | 5-6 |
| Eggplant | | | | | | | | | | | | | | S/D | 5-8 | 10-14 | 75-90 | 45-60 | 10-12 |
| Garlic | | | | | | | | | | | | | | D | 5 | 7-10 | 50 | 5 | 52 |
| Ginger | | | | | | | | | | | | | | R | 20 | 21 | 50 | 50 | 26 |
| Kang kong | | | | | | | | | | | | | | D | 10 | 5-7 | 50 | 10 | 7-8 |
| Lemon grass | | | | | | | | | | | | | | R | 20 | 10 | 100 | 20-30 | 12 |
| Lettuce fancy | | | | | | | | | | | | | | S/D | 3-5 | 6-10 | 20-30 | 20-30 | 7-12 |
| Luffa | | | | | | | | | | | | | | D | 10 | 7-10 | 300 | 60 | 12-20 |
| Mint | | | | | | | | | | | | | | S | 5 | 10-15 | 50 | 20 | 6 |
| Okra | | | | | | | | | | | | | | S/D | 5-8 | 10-14 | 100 | 50-60 | 10-12 |
| Parsley | | | | | | | | | | | | | | S | 5 | 4 | 30 | 30 | |
| Pumpkin | | | | | | | | | | | | | | D | 20-25 | 6-10 | 200-300 | 100 | 16-24 |
| Radish | | | | | | | | | | | | | | D | 10-15 | 5-8 | 10-15 | 3-5 | 6-8 |
| Rockmelon | | | | | | | | | | | | | | D | 20-25 | 6-10 | 200-300 | 60 | 10-12 |
| Rosella | | | | | | | | | | | | | | S | 10-15 | 10-14 | 150 | 150 | 16-20 |
| Shallots | | | | | | | | | | | | | | R | 50-60 | | 15-20 | 15-20 | 12-14 |
| Silverbeet | | | | | | | | | | | | | | S/D | 10-15 | 10-14 | 30-40 | 30-40 | 8-12 |
| Snake beans | | | | | | | | | | | | | | D | 15-20 | 7-10 | 75 | 10-15 | 8-10 |
| Spinach | | | | | | | | | | | | | | D | 10-15 | 14-21 | 30-40 | 30-40 | 8-10 |
| Spring onions | | | | | | | | | | | | | | D | 10-15 | 10-14 | 5-10 | 2-3 | 8-12 |
| Squash button | | | | | | | | | | | | | | D | 20-25 | 6-10 | 60 | 100 | 6-8 |
| Sweet corn | | | | | | | | | | | | | | D | 20-30 | 6-10 | 50-60 | 20-30 | 8-10 |
| Sweet potato | | | | | | | | | | | | | | R | 40-60 | | 100 | 30 | 18-20 |
| Taro | | | | | | | | | | | | | | R | 40-60 | | 100 | 50-60 | 26 |
| Tatsoi | | | | | | | | | | | | | | S | 5 | 5-7 | 30 | 20 | 4-6 |
| Tomato | | | | | | | | | | | | | | S/D | 5-10 | 7-10 | 100 | 40 | 8-10 |
| Watermelon | | | | | | | | | | | | | | D | 20-25 | 6-10 | 300 | 100 | 12-14 |
| Yam bean | | | | | | | | | | | | | | D | 10 | 10-15 | 100 | 20 | 20 |
| Zucchini | | | | | | | | | | | | | | D | 15-20 | 6-10 | 100 | 60 | 6-8 |