



## GENERAL INFORMATION: INDOOR SEEDING SCHEDULE

Starting your own seedlings can be fun and cost-effective. This chart outlines timing for starting many common vegetables and flowers and generally safe timing for planting them outdoors in the Pittsburgh region. For more detailed information on growing your own seedlings, look for our Starting Seeds and Preparing Seedlings for the Outdoors sheets.

### VEGETABLES

Crop	Date Range for Starting Inside	Seed this many weeks before planting out	Ideal Germination Temperature (in °F)	Planting Out time frame (relative to May 15 frost-free date)	Outdoor Planting Dates
BASIL	APR 10	6	70-90	1 WEEK AFTER	MAY 22
BROCCOLI	MAR 20 - APR 3	4 TO 6	68-86	2 WEEKS BEFORE	MAY 1 - 15
CABBAGE	MAR 6 - APRIL 17	4 TO 6	77-95	4 WEEKS BEFORE	APR 17 - MAY 15
CAULIFLOWER	MAR 20 - APRIL 17	4 TO 6	70-88	2 WEEKS BEFORE	MAY 1
CELERY & CELERIAC	FEB 28 - MAR 13	10 TO 12	68-86	1 WEEK AFTER	MAY 22
COLLARDS	MAR 6 - 20	4 TO 6	77-95	4 WEEKS BEFORE	APR 17
CORN*	APR 17 - MAY 15	2 TO 4	77-95	0 TO 2 WEEKS AFTER	MAY 15 - 29
CUCUMBERS*	APR 24 - MAY 8	3 TO 4	77-95	1 TO 2 WEEKS AFTER	MAY 22 - 29
EGGPLANT	MAR 20 - APR 10	8 TO 10	77-95	2 TO 3 WEEKS AFTER	MAY 29 - JUN 5
KALE	MAR 6 - 20	4 TO 6	80-95	4 WEEKS BEFORE	APR 17
KOHLRABI*	MAR 6 - 20	4 TO 6	70-86	4 WEEKS BEFORE	APR 17
LEEK	FEB 21 - MAR 6	8 TO 10	68-86	2 WEEKS BEFORE	MAY 1
LETTUCE	MAR 13 - 27	4 TO 5	60-78	3 TO 4 WEEKS BEFORE	APR 17 - 24
MELONS	MAY 1 - 8	3 TO 4	84-96	2 WEEKS AFTER	MAY 29
MUSTARD*	MAR 6 - 20	4 TO 6	70-86	4 WEEKS BEFORE	APR 17
OKRA*	APR 17 - MAY 15	4 TO 6	78-92	2 TO 4 WEEKS AFTER	MAY 29 - JUN 12
ONIONS	FEB 7 - 21	8 TO 10	75-88	4 WEEKS BEFORE	APR 17
OREGANO	FEB 28 - MAR 27	6 TO 10	60-70	1 WEEK BEFORE	MAY 7
PARSLEY	FEB 14 - 28	9 TO 10	60-75	2 TO 3 WEEKS BEFORE	APR 24 - MAY 1
PEAS*	FEB 21 - MAR 13	3 TO 4	66-88	6 TO 8 WEEKS BEFORE	MAR 20 - APR 3
PEPPERS	APR 3	8	77-95	2 WEEKS AFTER	MAY 29
PUMPKINS	MAY 1 - 8	3 TO 4	77-95	2 WEEKS AFTER	MAY 29
SAGE	MAR 13 - 27	6 TO 8	60-75	1 WEEK BEFORE	MAY 7
SPINACH	FEB 21 - MAR 27	4 TO 6	60-86	3 TO 6 WEEKS BEFORE	APR 3 - 24
SQUASH, SUMMER AND ZUCCHINI*	MAY 1 - 8	3 TO 4	75-93	2 WEEKS AFTER	MAY 29
SQUASH, WINTER*	MAY 1 - 8	3 TO 4	75-95	2 WEEKS AFTER	MAY 29
SWISS CHARD	MAR 20 - APR 3	4 TO 6	77-95	2 WEEKS BEFORE	MAY 1
THYME	FEB 28 - MAR 27	6 TO 10	60-70	1 WEEK BEFORE	MAY 7
TOMATOES	MAR 27 - APR 17	6 TO 8	77-90	1 TO 2 WEEKS AFTER	MAY 22 - 29
WATERMELON*	MAY 1 - 8	3 TO 4	86-100	2 WEEKS AFTER	MAY 29

\* Usually direct-sown, but may be started indoors



# GENERAL INFORMATION: INDOOR SEEDING SCHEDULE

## FLOWERS

Plant	Date Range for Starting Inside	Seed this many weeks before planting out	Ideal Germination Temperature (in °F)	Planting Out time frame (relative to May 15 frost-free date)	Outdoor Planting Dates
CALENDULA*	MAR 20 - APR 3	6 TO 8	70	ON FROST-FREE DATE	MAY 15
CELOSIA	MAR 27 - APR 10	6 TO 8	70-80	I WEEK AFTER	MAY 22
CENTAUREA (BACHELOR'S BUTTON)*	MAR 20 - APR 3	6 TO 8	70-75	ON FROST-FREE DATE	MAY 15
COSMOS*	MAR 27 - APR 10	5 TO 7	75	ON FROST-FREE DATE	MAY 15
FORGET-ME-NOT	MAR 13 - 20	8 TO 9	68-72	ON FROST-FREE DATE	MAY 15
MARIGOLD	MAR 27 - APR 10	6 TO 8	75-80	I WEEK AFTER	MAY 22
CALIFORNIA POPPY*	APR 24 - MAY 1	2 TO 3	60-65	ON FROST-FREE DATE	MAY 15
RUDBECKIA (BLACK EYED SUSAN)	MAR 6 - 20	8 TO 10	68-72	ON FROST-FREE DATE	MAY 15
SALVIA	MAR 6 - APR 3	6 TO 8	75-78	ON FROST-FREE DATE	MAY 15
SNAPDRAGON	MAR 6 - 20	8 TO 10	70-80	ON FROST-FREE DATE	MAY 15
STATICE	MAR 20	8	70	ON FROST-FREE DATE	MAY 15
SUNFLOWERS*	APR 17 - 24	3-4	70-75	ON FROST-FREE DATE	MAY 15
STRAWFLOWER	MAR 20 - APR 3	6 TO 8	70-75	ON FROST-FREE DATE	MAY 15
VIOLA (PANSY)	FEB 7 - MAR 13	8 TO 12	62-68	I TO 2 WEEKS BEFORE	MAY 1
YARROW	MAR 6 - 20	8 TO 12	65-72	ON FROST-FREE DATE	MAY 15
ZINNIA	APR 24	4	80-85	I WEEK AFTER	MAY 22

\* Usually direct-sown, but may be started indoors

## NOTES

- Harden off seedlings one week before planting outdoors, by gradually and increasingly introducing them to outside weather conditions (direct sun, wind, rain, etc.).
- Please note that many of these vegetables and flowers can be direct seeded. Indoor seeding gets a jump-start on production.
- This chart was derived with an interactive tool from [Johnny's Selected Seeds](#). Visit their website to customize the frost free date and find other planting information.