

Zone 3a planting guide

Average coldest winter night -40 to -35°F (-40 to -37°C). Places in zone 3a include Alaska, Minnesota.

Zone 3a winters are among the coldest in the country, and frost dates vary a lot over short distances. Write in your own average last spring frost, then count from it.

My ZIP code

My last frost

My first frost

SPRING: WHEN TO PLANT

Group	When	Crops	My date
Hardy crops	4 to 6 weeks before your last frost	Asparagus, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, collards, horseradish, kale, kohlrabi, leek, mustard, onion, peas, potato, radish, rhubarb, spinach, turnip	
Semi-hardy crops	2 to 4 weeks before your last frost	Beet, carrot, cauliflower, celery, chard, Chinese cabbage, lettuce, mustard, parsnip	
Tender crops	After your last frost, once nights stay above 50°F	Bean, sweet corn, tomato	
Very tender crops	At least 2 weeks after your last frost, once nights stay above 60 to 65°F	Cucumber, eggplant, melons, okra, pepper, pumpkin, squash, sweet potato	

FALL GARDEN

Count back from your first fall frost: days to harvest, plus about 14 days for slower fall growth, plus 14 more for frost-tender crops. Hardy choices: cabbage, carrots, turnips, rutabagas, kale.

Perennials, shrubs and trees: choose plants rated for zone 3 or colder (a lower number). In zone 3a you are in the colder half of zone 3, so a plant rated "to zone 3" is right at its limit.

Spring timing: Purdue Extension HO-186-W. Fall method: University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension NebGuide G1343. Your zone by ZIP code: plantsdirectusa.com.

