

Zone 4b planting guide

Average coldest winter night -25 to -20°F (-32 to -29°C). Places in zone 4b include Duluth, MN, Saint Cloud, MN, Helena, MT, Montpelier, VT.

LAST SPRING FROST

May 8

Middle half of ZIPs: May 5 to May 16

FIRST FALL FROST

October 1

Middle half of ZIPs: September 28 to October 4

FROST-FREE DAYS

About 146

Between the two median dates

SPRING: WHAT TO PLANT AND WHEN

Group	Plant outside	Crops
Hardy crops tolerate a hard frost	March 27 to April 10	Asparagus, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, collards, horseradish, kale, kohlrabi, leek, mustard, onion, peas, potato, radish, rhubarb, spinach, turnip
Semi-hardy crops tolerate a light frost	April 10 to April 24	Beet, carrot, cauliflower, celery, chard, Chinese cabbage, lettuce, mustard, parsnip
Tender crops damaged by frost	From May 8	Bean, sweet corn, tomato
Very tender crops warm season	From May 22	Cucumber, eggplant, melons, okra, pepper, pumpkin, squash, sweet potato

FALL GARDEN

Count back from the first fall frost (October 1): days to harvest, plus about 14 days because growth slows in fall, plus 14 more for frost-tender crops. A 50-day crop goes in by **July 29**, a 70-day crop by **July 9**.

Semi-hardy (take light frost)	Beets, mustard, radishes, spinach, Swiss chard, green onions
Hardy (take several frosts)	Cabbage, carrots, turnips, rutabagas, kale

My ZIP code

My last frost

My first frost

Perennials, shrubs and trees: choose plants rated for zone 4 or colder (a lower number). In zone 4b you are in the warmer half of zone 4, so a plant rated "to zone 4" is a little inside its range.

Frost dates: medians across 1,270 zone 4b ZIP codes, from the nearest NOAA 1991-2020 climate normals station (32°F, 50% chance). Spring timing: Purdue Extension HO-186-W. Fall method and crops: University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension NebGuide G1343. Your own dates by ZIP code: plantsdirectusa.com.

