

Zone 8b planting guide

Average coldest winter night 15 to 20°F (-9 to -7°C). Places in zone 8b include El Paso, TX, Dallas, TX, Fort Worth, TX, Shreveport, LA.

LAST SPRING FROST

March 16

Middle half of ZIPs: March 9 to March 24

FIRST FALL FROST

November 14

Middle half of ZIPs: November 9 to November 20

FROST-FREE DAYS

About 243

Between the two median dates

SPRING: WHAT TO PLANT AND WHEN

Group	Plant outside	Crops
Hardy crops tolerate a hard frost	February 2 to February 16	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	February 16 to March 2	Beet, carrot, cauliflower, celery, chard, Chinese cabbage, lettuce, mustard, parsnip
Tender crops damaged by frost	From March 16	Bean, sweet corn, tomato
Very tender crops warm season	From March 30	Cucumber, eggplant, melons, okra, pepper, pumpkin, squash, sweet potato

FALL GARDEN

Count back from the first fall frost (November 14): 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 **September 11**, a 70-day crop by **August 22**.

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 8 or colder (a lower number). In zone 8b you are in the warmer half of zone 8, so a plant rated "to zone 8" is a little inside its range.

Frost dates: medians across 3,376 zone 8b 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.

