



**SEEDTIME**



# **Cool Weather Crop List Guide**

# Cool Weather Crop Guide: Mastering Your Early & Late Season Plantings

Growing a successful cool weather garden isn't just about throwing seeds in the ground for a season change—it's about timing, intention, and knowing each crop's unique rhythm.

This guide is your quick “crop list” roadmap to mastering cool season vegetables with confidence, knowing you're growing the right thing for the right season.

Cool weather crops thrive in the chilly days of early spring and fall. These resilient plants prefer temperatures between 40–75°F (4–24°C) and can tolerate frosts. But their success isn't just tied to temperature—each one has its own “personality” when it comes to how long it takes to mature, how it prefers to be planted, and how it should be harvested.

This is where our guide steps in.

The table ahead offers you not just a list, but a **strategic breakdown** of each cool weather crop across three powerful decision-making categories:

1. **Weeks in Ground** – Know exactly how long each crop will likely be in the ground including growing time as well as a solid harvest window. This is NOT the plants “Days to Maturity”. This is how long you can expect it to take up space including the time you are harvesting off of it. This helps you plan for maximum bed usage, crop rotations, and season extensions.

**NOTE:** Continuous harvest crops may last longer than listed due to the fact that their harvest can continue to extend as long as the season lasts.

2. **Suggested Planting Type** – Should you direct seed it or transplant? Some crops prefer direct seeding, others do great as transplants (and when it's hot outside, starting crops inside can be super beneficial).
3. **Harvest Type** – Learn whether to harvest all at once or keep cutting for continual yield. This distinction affects your weekly harvest expectations and kitchen planning.

When used together, this information allows you to:

- **Optimize your [Seedtime calendar](#)** for precise cool season planning.
- **Reduce garden overwhelm** by focusing on crops that align with your schedule and climate.

- **Increase yields and succession planting opportunities** with crops that mature quickly or regrow continually.

This guide is especially valuable for gardeners in regions with:

- Short springs and falls
- Late frosts or early snows
- Long growing seasons where multiple cool-season crops can be cycled

Whether you're dreaming of crisp spinach, sweet snap peas, or hearty kale, this guide is built to ensure your cool season crops not only survive—but thrive.

Ready? Here's the table for you:

Crop	Weeks In Ground	Suggested Planting Type	Harvest Type
Garlic	34	Direct Seed (DS)	Single
Artichoke	18	Transplant (T)	Continuous
Brussels Sprouts	18	T	Single
Celery	17	T	Single
Leeks	17	T	Single
Parsnips	17	DS	Single
Celeriac	16	T	Single
Cabbage	15	T	Single
Radicchio	14	T	Single
Onions	13	T	Single
Carrots	13	DS	Single
Arugula	12	DS	Continuous
Cauliflower	12	T	Single
Collards	12	T	Continuous
Kale	12	T	Continuous
Lettuce (cut and come again)	12	T	Continuous

Crop	Weeks In Ground	Suggested Planting Type	Harvest Type
Mustard	12	T	Continuous
Peas	12	DS	Single
Sorrel (annual)	12	DS	Continuous
Swiss Chard	12	T	Continuous
Chinese Cabbage	11	T	Single
Fennel	11	T	Single
Broccoli	10	T	Single
Chives	10	T	Continuous
Cilantro	10	DS	Continuous
Garlic Chives	10	T	Continuous
Spinach	10	DS	Continuous
Chicory	9	T	Single
Endive	9	T	Single
Escarole	9	T	Single
Green Onions	9	T	Single
Turnips	9	DS	Single
Mâche	9	DS	Single
Claytonia	8	DS	Single
Kohlrabi	8	T	Single
Lettuce	6	T	Single
Baby Arugula	5	DS	Single
Baby Endive	5	DS	Single
Baby Kale	5	DS	Single
Baby Lettuce	5	DS	Single
Baby Mizuna	5	DS	Single
Baby Mustard Greens	5	DS	Single
Baby Orach	5	DS	Single
Baby Spinach	5	DS	Single

Crop	Weeks In Ground	Suggested Planting Type	Harvest Type
Baby Swiss Chard	5	DS	Single
Baby Tatsoi	5	DS	Single
Bok Choi	5	T	Single
Radishes	5	DS	Single
Yukina Savoy	5	T	Single

## Wrapping It All Together: Smart Cool Season Growing

By now, you’ve got a clear, actionable look at the life cycles and behaviors of cool weather crops. With this information, you can garden smarter—not harder—by:

- **Timing plantings perfectly** to make the most of short spring and fall windows.
- **Choosing the best method** to get your crops off to a strong start (transplant vs. direct seed).
- **Harvesting efficiently**, knowing what can be cut repeatedly and what’s a one-time treat.

Use this guide alongside your [Seedtime calendar](#) to build resilient seasonal plans, avoid last-minute guesswork, and fill your garden beds with confidence.

Remember: A cool season garden isn’t a consolation prize for summer—it’s a secret weapon for year-round abundance. With the right plan, you’ll be harvesting crisp greens, tender roots, and vibrant brassicas when others are just getting started or winding down.

Now go turn that cool weather into garden gold!  