



# Indoor Seed Starting Calendar

THE APPROPRIATE DATES to start seeds are determined by the last frost date, which varies geographically. Pittsburgh is in Zone 6 of the USDA's Plant Hardiness Map, which means the average last frost date in spring is May 15, and first frost date in fall is around Oct. 15.

The dates listed below are for earliest harvests, but many of the crops below can also be planted or re-planted later in the season. Some varieties can also be direct-sown, except as indicated.



VEGETABLE	WEEKS TO START SEEDS BEFORE SET-OUT DATE	WHEN TO START INSIDE		SAFE TIME TO PLANT OUTSIDE (RELATIVE TO FROST-FREE DATE)	WHEN TO PLANT OUTSIDE	
		FROM	TO		FROM	TO
Basil	6	April 10		1 week after	May 15	
Beets*	4-6	March 20	April 3	4 weeks before	April 17	
Cabbage	4-6	March 6	April 17	4 weeks before	April 17	May 15
Collards	4-6	March 6	March 20	4 weeks before	April 17	
Cucumber	3-4	April 24	May 8	1-2 weeks after	May 22	May 29
Eggplant**	8-10	March 20	April 10	2-3 weeks after	May 29	June 5
Kale	4-6	March 6	March 20	4 weeks before	April 17	
Peppers**	8	April 3		2 weeks after	May 29	
Squash	3-4	May 1	May 8	2 weeks after	May 29	
Swiss chard	4-6	March 20	April 3	2 weeks before	May 1	
Tomatoes**	6-8	March 27	April 17	1-2 weeks after	May 22	May 29

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

\*\* Must be started indoors; outdoor growing season is too short