



Purely Organic

Jim's Vegetable Garden Planning Guide

For the Midlands Area of SC

See <https://purelyorganicfertilizer.com/> for Jim's fertilizer

February

- Plant seeds inside: tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants
- Plant seeds outside: mustard, purple top turnips, spinach, beets, carrots, sugar peas, snow peas, and lettuce
- Plant outside: Irish potato pieces (Valentine's day), onion bulbs, cabbage and collard plants, asparagus crowns, broccoli plants

March

- Same as February
- Can plant strawberries, will get some by end of summer if they're ever-bearing

Easter/Last Frost

- Plant any seedlings you grew
- Plant seeds outside: corn, beans, peas, white turnips, cucumbers, radishes, and squash/zucchini
- Plant seeds outside or plants for melons
- If you plant before last frost, protect your plants during freezes

April

- Stop harvesting Asparagus. Allow the ferns to continue to grow.

May

- Plant seeds outside for okra

June/Longest Day of the Year

- Harvest Garlic

August

- Early August – plant seeds outside for broccoli, cauliflower, brussel sprouts, cabbage, turnips, and collards (cole crops)
- Late August – plant seedlings for the above

September

- Plant onion bulbs outside
- Plant strawberry plants (ever-bearing)

First Freeze

- Cut down asparagus ferns



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December/Shortest Day of the Year

- Plant garlic bulbs

For more specific dates for SC planting intervals, see the chart at the bottom of the Planning a Garden Guide page at Clemson Extension. <https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/planning-a-garden/>.

Gardening Tips

Frost Protection

- Discard the screw top of an empty plastic gallon milk jug. Cut the bottom of the jug off. Place the jug over the seed or plant area. Frost will not get in, hot air can escape, and rain will get in. Remove jug after last frost. If plants have become scrunched underneath, they will immediately unfold.

Asparagus

- It takes about a year to grow crowns from seeds.
- You can also plant the crowns instead of growing them from seeds.
- It takes about two more years for crowns to grow large enough in diameter for harvesting.
- Stop harvesting them after March and let the ferns grow. Then cut them down when it frosts that winter.

Compost

- Top dress plants with fresh compost each year, leaving room around the stems. This enhances the soil nutrients.

Tomatoes

- Determinate tomatoes will get 3-4' or taller. They can be staked instead of caged.
- Indeterminate tomatoes will keep vining and spreading until the frost kills them.