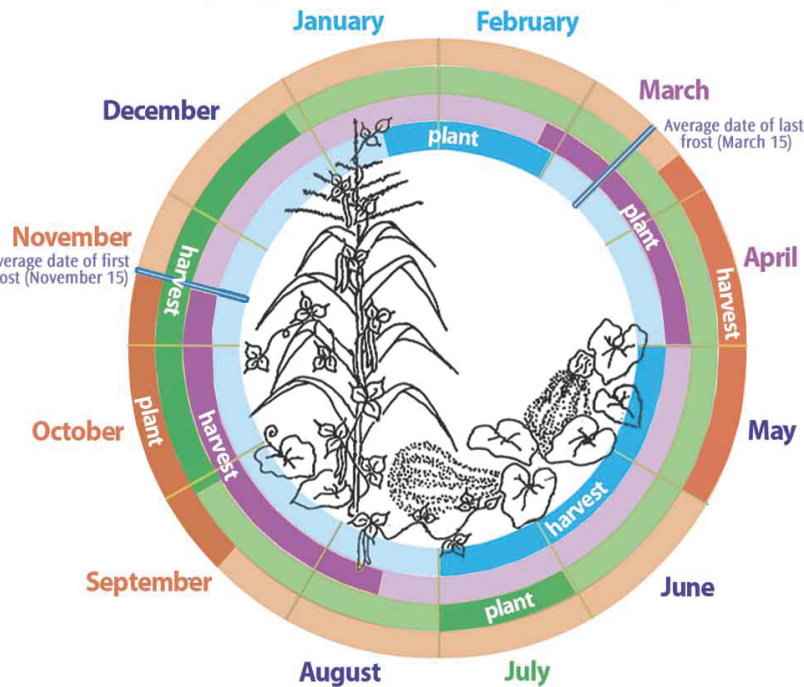


Planting & harvesting in the Low Desert

Low desert includes elevations below 3500 ft in the Southwest, such as the Tucson and Phoenix metro areas. Contact your local extension agent or garden center for local planting times if outside this region.



Early Spring mid JAN – late FEB

arugula, chickpea, cilantro, fava, kale, lentil, lettuce, onion, pea, radish, swiss chard, wheat, wildflowers

Spring early MAR – late APR

amaranth, bean, chichiquelite, chile, corn, cotton, cowpea, cucumber, eggplant, gourd, herbs, melon, sorghum, squash, sunflower, tobacco, tomato (plants), tomatillo (plants), watermelon

Monsoon JULY

amaranth, bean, cowpea, corn, cucumber, devil's claw, eggplant, melon, panic grass, sorghum, squash, sunflower, tomato (plants), tomatillo (plants), watermelon

Fall late SEP – mid NOV

arugula, beet, broccoli, cabbage, carrot, chickpea, cilantro, fava, garlic, greens, kale, lettuce, lentil, onion, pea, radish, spinach, swiss chard, wheat, wildflowers

General Instructions

Gardening in the Southwest can sometimes be a challenge. For thousands of years, Native Americans have been and continue to be successful gardeners and farmers in this region. Planting seasonally appropriate crops, using arid-adapted seed varieties, and managing water and soils are keys to successful gardening in this region.

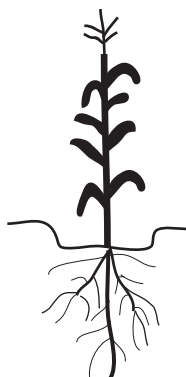
Soils

Organic matter should be added to most garden soils. Compost or manures add nutrients and improve soil texture, allowing for better water holding capacity. Amendments should be added annually. Add sand (20-30%) to heavy clay soils to improve water percolation.

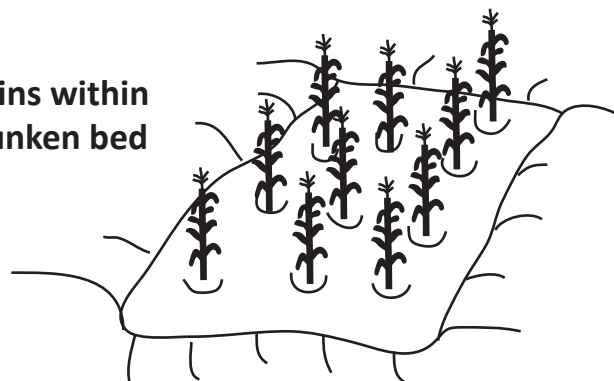
Water & Mulch

Desert-adapted seeds need moisture to germinate and require water throughout their growing cycle, however they “tolerate” heat and drought better than varieties from less arid climates. Mulch around plants (at least 3” thick). Plant seeds in individual basins or sunken beds to collect and hold more moisture and concentrate water around each plant to penetrate deeply and encourage deep root growth. Basins and sunken beds will also keep soil and roots cooler.

Basin



Basins within a sunken bed





Native Seeds/SEARCH
3061 N. Campbell Ave.
Tucson, AZ 85719

Ph: 520-622-5561
www.nativeseeds.org

| CROP | SEASON | PLANTING DEPTH | DISTANCE | HELPFUL TIPS |
|---|--------------------|----------------|--|--|
| AMARANTH | Spring, Monsoon | ¼" | Thin to 10-15" apart | Broadcast seeds |
| BEANS | | | | |
| Common | Spring, Monsoon | 1" | 6" | Plant with corn & squash |
| Lima | Spring, Monsoon | 1" | 6" | Plant with corn & squash |
| Runner | Spring, Monsoon | 1" | 6" | Use trellis, does not tolerate heat |
| Tepary | Monsoon | ½" | 4" | Avoid overwatering |
| Wild | Spring, Monsoon | ½" | 4" | Soak seeds overnight |
| CHILES | Spring, Monsoon | ½" | 6-12" | Start inside 6 weeks before transplanting |
| CHILTEPINES | Spring, Monsoon | ½" | 12" | Transplant under mesquite trees |
| CORN | Spring, Monsoon | 1" | 12" in rows that are 1-2' apart, or in hills 3-6' apart with 4 seeds | Plant in blocks of several hills or rows instead of a single row to increase pollination |
| COTTON | Spring | ½" | 12" | Soak seeds overnight |
| COWPEA | Spring, Monsoon | 1" | 6" | Great nitrogen fixer |
| CUCUMBER | Spring, Monsoon | 1" | 3-6" in basins 48" apart, 12-24" in rows | Trellis |
| DEVIL'S CLAW | Monsoon | ½" | 24" | Peel open outer seedcoat |
| EGGPLANT | Spring, Monsoon | ½" | 12" | Start inside 6 weeks before transplanting |
| FAVA | Fall, Early Spring | 1" | 6" | Great nitrogen fixer |
| GARBANZO | Fall, Early Spring | ½" | 6" | Do not transplant |
| GREENS | Fall, Early Spring | ¼" | Thin to 10-15" apart | Broadcast seeds and thin |
| GOURDS | Spring | 1" | 3-6" in basins 48" apart, 12-24" in rows | Can be trellised |
| HERBS | | | | |
| Basil, Epazote | Spring, Monsoon | ¼" | 6-12" | Frost sensitive |
| Cilantro, Dill, Thyme, Oregano, Parsley | Fall | ¼" | 1-2" | Cold tolerant |
| INDIGO | Spring | ½" | 12" | Scarify seeds |
| MELON | Spring, Monsoon | ½" | 12-48" | Plants will sprawl |
| OKRA | Spring, Monsoon | ½" | 12-18" | Scarify seeds and soak overnight |
| ONION | Fall | 1" | 2-3" | |
| PANIC GRASS | Monsoon | ¼" | Broadcast seeds | Rake in seeds |
| PEAS | Fall, Early Spring | ½" | 6" | Do not tolerate the heat |
| ROOT VEGETABLES | Fall, Early Spring | ¼"-½" | Varies | Cold tolerant, thin seedlings to avoid overcrowding |
| SORGHUM | Spring, Monsoon | ½" | 10" | |
| SQUASH | Spring, Monsoon | 1" | 3-6" in basins 48" apart, 12-24" in rows | Plant with corn & sunflowers |
| SUNFLOWERS | Spring, Monsoon | 1" | 12" | Plant with beans & cucumbers |
| TEOSINTE | Monsoon | ½" | 4-6" | Plant around corn, soak seeds overnight |
| TOBACCO | Spring, Monsoon | Rake in <¼" | Thin to 12" | A natural insecticide |
| TOMATILLOS | Spring | ½" | 15" | Start inside 6 weeks before transplanting |
| TOMATOES | Spring, Monsoon | ½" | 15" | Start inside 6 weeks before transplanting |
| WATERMELON | Spring, Monsoon | ½" | 24-48" | Plants will sprawl |
| WHEAT | Fall, Early Spring | ½" | 3-6" | Broadcast and rake in for small spaces |