

ZONE 10

VEGETABLE GARDEN GUIDE

Florida Edition



**Month-by-Month Planting
Calendar, Crop Guide & Planner**

For Zones 10a and 10b

— GrowYourYard.com —

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Welcome to your Zone 10 year

Most planting calendars are written for gardeners up north, where everything waits for the last spring frost. South Florida works the other way round. This guide gives you the right dates for your garden, month by month, plus the reference pages you'll come back to all season.

CHECK YOUR ZONE

Enter your ZIP code at planthardiness.ars.usda.gov. Zone 10 means your coldest winter night averages 30 to 40°F. In 10a that's 30 to 35°F, and in 10b it's 35 to 40°F. This guide covers both.

The planting dates come from the University of Florida (UF/IFAS), which splits the state at State Roads 40 and 70. The monthly pages use the South Florida dates, for gardens south of State Road 70. If you're in Zone 10 but north of that line, such as the Orlando area, check the Central Florida column in the Crop Reference too.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Section	Use it to
Year at a glance	See every crop's planting window on one page
Monthly pages	Know what to sow, plant out and harvest each month, plus that month's jobs
Soil and summer pages	Prepare beds properly and get through the hot, wet months
Crop Reference	Look up spacing, seed depth and days to harvest for 40 crops
Varieties, pests, succession	Pick varieties that cope with Florida, fix problems, keep harvests coming
Planner pages	Map your beds and track seeds, plantings and harvests

Planting dates are windows, not deadlines. A warm fall or a cold snap can shift them by a week or two.

WHY ZONE 10 IS DIFFERENT

Your garden runs on a flipped calendar

In South Florida the main vegetable season runs from fall through spring. Summer brings heavy heat, daily rain, insects and disease, so it's the rest season for most vegetables. That's the opposite of a northern garden.

YOUR FOUR SEASONS

Season	What's happening	What to grow
Fall (Sep–Nov)	The big planting window opens as heat eases	Almost everything: tomatoes, peppers, greens, brassicas, beans, roots, strawberries
Winter (Dec–Feb)	Peak harvest. Frost is rare	Cool-season crops keep going. Melons can be sown from December
Spring (Mar–May)	Last plantings as heat builds	Corn, beans, squash and melons; harvest the last tomatoes
Summer (Jun–Aug)	Heat, rain and hurricane season	Heat lovers only: sweet potatoes, southern peas, okra, Seminole pumpkin, Malabar spinach

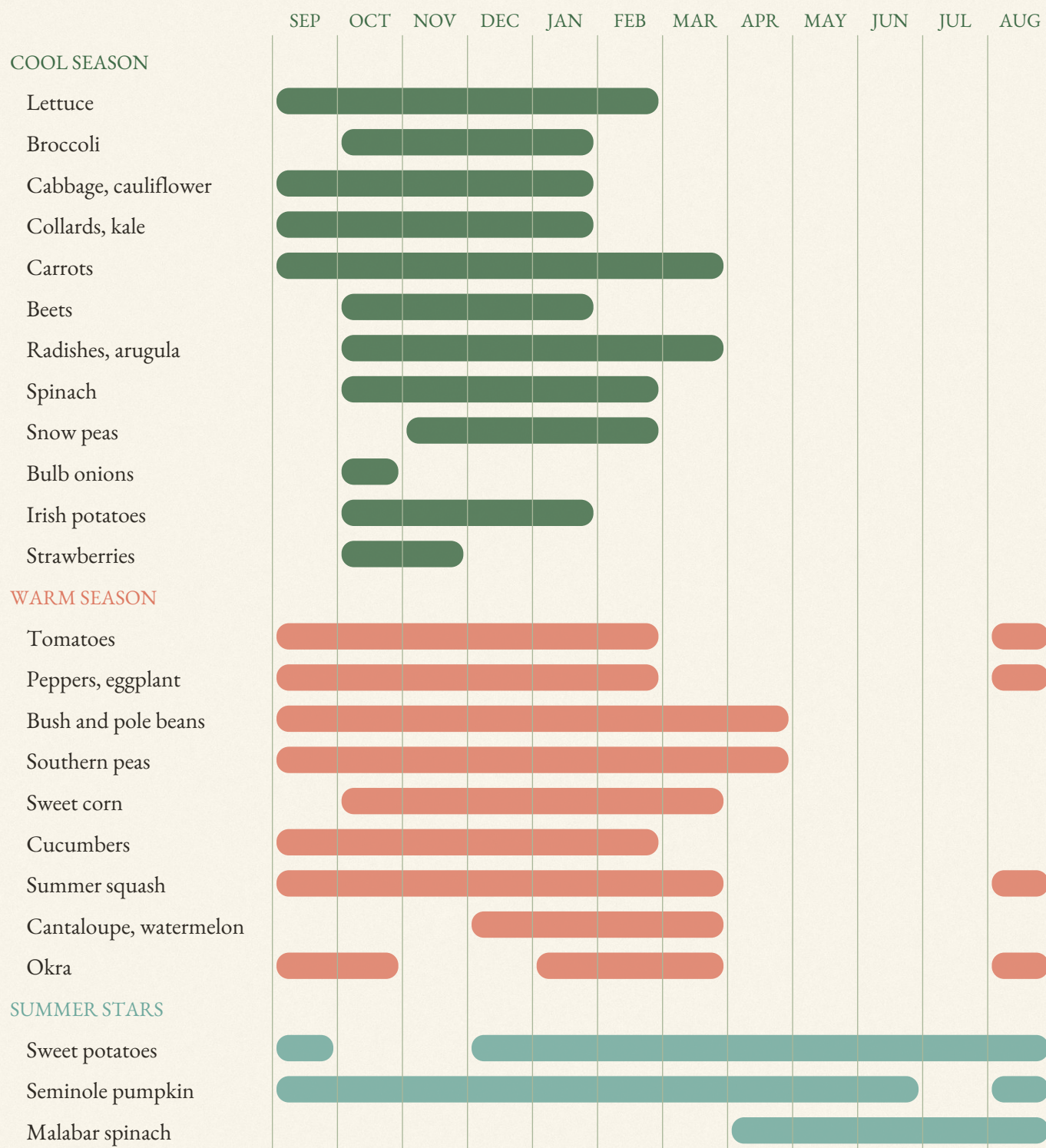
THREE THINGS THAT CATCH PEOPLE OUT

- Seed packets are written for the north. "Sow after the last frost" usually means spring there. Many of those crops belong in your fall garden instead.
- Lettuce, broccoli and peas are winter crops here. Planted in spring, they bolt or struggle as the heat arrives.
- Summer isn't a growing season for most vegetables. Use it to solarize beds, grow a cover crop or plant the few crops that love the heat.

Fall is your spring. Have seeds ordered and beds ready by the end of August.

YOUR ZONE 10 YEAR

When to plant, at a glance



Bars show the best planting windows for South Florida. Harvest follows 1 to 4 months later. Okra and tomatoes have two windows, so their bars wrap round the year.

PREPARING YOUR SOIL

Good beds make good harvests

South Florida soil is usually sandy, low in organic matter and alkaline, with a pH of 7.0 to 8.5. Sand drains fast and holds few nutrients, so organic matter is the single biggest improvement you can make.

STEP BY STEP

- Test first. Your county UF/IFAS Extension office can test your soil pH. Vegetables do best between 5.8 and 6.3, and anything from 5.5 to 7.0 needs no adjustment.
- If your soil is alkaline, it can't be permanently lowered. Build raised beds filled with a good soil mix, or bring in topsoil, and keep adding organic matter.
- Dig at least 3 weeks before planting. Clear weeds, loosen the soil and rake it smooth.
- Add organic matter. Work in compost or rotted manure. Uncomposted material needs at least a month to break down before you sow.
- Feed at planting, following the label or your soil test. Side-dress lightly 2 or 3 times during the season. Beans and peas need only half the usual rate.
- Mulch with straw, fallen leaves or rough compost to hold moisture and block weeds. Avoid wood mulch and fresh sawdust.

WATERING

Water young plants little and often, and mature plants deeply but less often. Sandy soil dries fast, so check it regularly. Drip irrigation and micro-sprayers waste the least water. Never leave plants in standing water.

Rotate crop families every season to keep soil pests and diseases from building up.

SEPTEMBER

Fall Planting Begins

Sow Seeds Now



Bush Beans



Pole Beans



Southern Peas



Carrots



Cucumbers



Lettuce



Turnips



Green Onions

Set Out Transplants



Tomatoes



Peppers



Eggplant



Cabbage



Cauliflower



Collards



Kale



Harvest Now

Sweet Potatoes



Malabar Spinach



Seminole Pumpkin



Garden Jobs

- Peak hurricane season, so keep stakes and beds secure
- Shade new seedlings on hot afternoons
- Work compost into beds before planting

Sow lettuce every 2 to 3 weeks for a steady supply

OCTOBER

The Big Planting Month

SOW SEEDS NOW



Beets



Carrots



Radishes



Arugula



Lettuce



Bush Beans

SET OUT TRANSPLANTS



Tomatoes



Peppers



Eggplant



Broccoli



Cabbage



Collards



Kale



Strawberries

HARVEST NOW



Okra



Sweet Potatoes



Seminole
Pumpkin



Malabar
Spinach

GARDEN JOBS

Work compost into alkaline
soil before planting

Hurricane season runs to
November 30, so stake
tall plants

Check broccoli and cabbage
leaves for caterpillars

Onions go in this month only, so don't miss the window

NOVEMBER

Peak Season Starts

Sow Seeds Now



Set Out Transplants



Harvest Now



Garden Jobs



Strawberry transplants must go in by December 1

DECEMBER

Cool and Productive

SOW SEEDS NOW



Beets



Carrots



Radishes



Lettuce



Bush Beans



Sweet Corn



Cantaloupe



Watermelon

SET OUT TRANSPLANTS



Broccoli



Cabbage



Cauliflower



Kale



Collards



Tomatoes



Peppers



Eggplant

HARVEST NOW



Lettuce



Radishes



Arugula



Collards



Tomatoes



Bush Beans

GARDEN JOBS

Cover tender plants
on rare cold nights

Water less as days cool,
but keep beds moist

Keep picking greens
so they regrow

Cantaloupe and watermelon can be sown from December

JANUARY

Harvest in Full Swing

Sow Seeds Now

Carrots



Radishes



Lettuce



Beets



Cucumbers



Sweet Corn



Squash



Watermelon



Set Out Transplants

Broccoli



Cabbage



Cauliflower



Kale



Collards



Tomatoes



Peppers



Eggplant



Harvest Now

Broccoli



Cabbage



Carrots



Lettuce



Kale



Strawberries



Garden Jobs

- ☐ Cover plants if frost is forecast
- ☐ Check broccoli and cabbage for aphids and caterpillars
- ☐ Plan your spring melon patch

Last month for broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, kale and collards

FEBRUARY

Spring Comes Early

SOW SEEDS NOW



Carrots



Radishes



Snow Peas



Bush Beans



Sweet Corn



Cucumbers



Squash



Cantaloupe

SET OUT TRANSPLANTS



Tomatoes



Peppers



Eggplant



Swiss Chard



Sweet Potato
Slips

HARVEST NOW



Broccoli



Cauliflower



Cabbage



Carrots



Lettuce



Strawberries

GARDEN JOBS

Pull finished winter
crops and add compost

Mulch new plantings
before the heat arrives

Pick strawberries
every few days

Last month to set out tomatoes, peppers and eggplant

MARCH

Last Big Planting Push

Sow Seeds Now



Bush Beans

Pole Beans



Sweet Corn

Squash



Cantaloupe



Watermelon



Radishes



Carrots



Set Out Transplants



Sweet Potato
Slips



Swiss Chard



Celery



Harvest Now



Tomatoes

Peppers



Eggplant



Strawberries



Carrots



Beets



Garden Jobs

Mulch heavily before
the heat arrives

Water deeply in dry
spring weeks

Decide which beds will
rest over summer

*Final month for corn, squash,
melons, carrots and radishes*

APRIL

Warm Crops Take Over

SOW SEEDS NOW



Bush Beans



Pole Beans



Lima Beans



Southern Peas

SET OUT TRANSPLANTS



Sweet Potato
Slips

HARVEST NOW



Tomatoes



Peppers



Eggplant



Squash



Cucumbers



Sweet Corn



Bush Beans

GARDEN JOBS

Pull spent
cool-season crops

Mulch thickly to
keep roots cool

Water early in
the morning

Last month to sow beans and southern peas until fall

MAY

Switch to Summer Crops

PLANT NOW



Sweet
Potato
Slips



Seminole
Pumpkin



Malabar
Spinach

HARVEST NOW



Cantaloupe



Watermelon



Sweet
Corn



Bush Beans



The Last
Tomatoes

GARDEN JOBS

Check trees for weak branches before hurricane season

Make sure beds drain well before the rainy season

Clear empty beds ready for solarizing

Grow heat-loving tropicals through the summer

JUNE

The Summer Rest

PLANT NOW



Sweet potato slips

Malabar spinach

Seminole pumpkin



HARVEST NOW



Watermelon

Cantaloupe

Southern peas

Sweet potatoes



GARDEN JOBS

Solarize empty beds under clear plastic for 4 to 6 weeks

Hurricane season starts June 1

Watch for fungal disease in the rainy season

Let the summer heat clean your soil

JULY

Rest and Plan

PLANT NOW



Sweet Potato Slips

Malabar Spinach

HARVEST NOW



Sweet Potatoes



Malabar Spinach



Seminole Pumpkin



Southern Peas

GARDEN JOBS

- ✦ Keep solarizing beds for fall
- ✦ Pull weeds before they set seed
- ✦ Order seeds for fall planting

Fall planting starts next month, so order seeds now

AUGUST

Fall Season Begins

SOW SEEDS NOW



Squash



Okra

SET OUT TRANSPLANTS



Tomatoes



Peppers



Eggplant

HARVEST NOW



Sweet Potatoes



Malabar Spinach



Seminole Pumpkin

GARDEN JOBS

- Remove plastic and add compost to solarized beds
- Peak hurricane season, so keep supplies ready
- Start cabbage and collard seedlings in shade

Fall tomatoes go in now for a long harvest

CROP REFERENCE

Part 1 of 3

Planting windows, spacing and timings for 40 crops. Days to harvest are from seed, with days from transplant in brackets.

Crop	South FL	Central FL	Start as	Days to harvest	Spacing (in.) plants / rows	Seed depth (in.)
Arugula	Oct–Mar	Sep–Mar	Seed or transplant	35–60	3–4 / 10	¼
Beans, bush	Sep–Apr	Feb–Apr, Aug–Sep	Seed only	45–60	2–4 / 18	1–1½
Beans, pole	Sep–Apr	Feb–Apr, Aug–Sep	Seed only	50–70	3–5 / 36	1–1½
Beans, lima	Sep–Apr	Feb–Mar, Aug–Sep	Seed only	60–80	3–6 / 18	1–1½
Beets	Oct–Jan	Sep–Feb	Seed or transplant	50–70	2–4 / 12	½–1
Broccoli	Oct–Jan	Sep–Feb	Seed or transplant	75–90 (50–70)	10–15 / 24	¼–½
Brussels sprouts	Oct–Jan	Sep–Feb	Seed or transplant	90–120 (70–90)	18–24 / 24	¼–½
Cabbage	Sep–Jan	Sep–Feb	Seed or transplant	85–110 (70–90)	9–16 / 24	¼–½
Cantaloupe	Dec–Mar	Jan–Mar	Seed only	85–110 (70–90)	20–36 / 60	½–1
Carrots	Sep–Mar	Aug–Mar	Seed	70–120	1–3 / 10	¼
Cauliflower	Sep–Jan	Sep–Feb	Seed or transplant	75–90 (50–70)	12–18 / 24	¼–½
Celery	Oct–Mar	Sep–Mar	Transplant with care	75–90	6–12 / 18	Surface
Chinese cabbage	Sep–Apr	Sep–Apr	Seed or transplant	70–90 (60–70)	14–18 / 14	¼–½
Collards	Sep–Jan	Sep–Feb	Seed or transplant	70–90 (50–70)	12–24 / 24	¼–½

CROP REFERENCE

Part 2 of 3

Crop	South FL	Central FL	Start as	Days to harvest	Spacing (in.) plants / rows	Seed depth (in.)
Corn, sweet	Oct–Mar	Jan–Apr	Seed only	65–90	6–8 / 28	1–1½
Cucumbers	Sep–Feb	Jan–Mar, Sep	Seed only	40–65	6–12 / 48	½–¾
Eggplant	Aug–Feb	Jan–Feb, Aug–Sep	Seed or transplant	90–115 (70–90)	18–40 / 36	½–¾
Endive / escarole	Sep–Mar	Aug–Feb	Seed or transplant	60–80	14–16 / 18	¼
Kale	Sep–Jan	Sep–Feb	Seed or transplant	50–70	8–12 / 18	¼–½
Kohlrabi	Oct–Feb	Oct–Mar	Seed or transplant	70–80 (50–55)	3–5 / 24	½
Lettuce	Sep–Feb	Sep–Feb	Seed or transplant	60–80	8–12 / 18	¼
Mustard greens	Sep–Jan	Sep–Feb	Seed	40–50	5–10 / 12	¼–½
Okra	Jan–Mar, Aug–Oct	Feb–Aug	Seed only	60–70	4–10 / 36	½–1
Onions, bulbing	Oct	Oct	Sets or seed	100–130	4–6 / 14	¼–½
Onions, green	Sep–Mar	Aug–Mar	Sets or seed	50–75	2 / 14	¼–½
Peas, snow or English	Nov–Feb	Nov–Feb	Seed only	60–80	2–6 / 12	1–1½
Peas, southern	Sep–Apr	Feb–Aug	Seed only	75–90	2–6 / 12	1–1½
Peppers	Aug–Feb	Jan–Mar, Aug–Sep	Seed or transplant	90–100 (65–75)	9–15 / 15	¼–½

CROP REFERENCE

Part 3 of 3

Crop	South FL	Central FL	Start as	Days to harvest	Spacing (in.) plants / rows	Seed depth (in.)
Potatoes, Irish	Oct–Jan	Nov–Feb	Seed pieces	85–110	5–10 / 36–42	3–4
Potatoes, sweet	Dec–Sep	Feb–Jun	Slips	85–130	10–12 / 36	—
Pumpkin	Early Aug	Mid Jul	Seed only	80–100	36–60 / 60	1½–2
Radishes	Oct–Mar	Sep–Mar	Seed only	20–30	1 / 6	¼
Spinach	Oct–Feb	Sep–Mar	Seed	45–60	2–6 / 12	½
Squash, summer	Aug–Mar	Jan–Apr, Aug–Sep	Seed only	40–50	12–24 / 36	1–1½
Squash, winter	Aug–Mar	Jan–Apr, Aug–Sep	Seed only	85–120	36–60 / 60	1½–2
Strawberries	Oct 1–Dec 1	Sep 25–Oct 25	Transplants	(30–60)	12–16 / 12	—
Swiss chard	Sep–Mar	Sep–May	Seed or transplant	45–60	6–12 / 18	¼–½
Tomatoes, staked	Aug–Feb	Jan–Feb, Aug–Sep	Seed or transplant	90–110 (70–90)	18–32 / 48	¼–½
Turnips	Sep–Jan	Sep–Feb	Seed only	40–60	2–6 / 12	¼–½
Watermelon	Dec–Mar	Jan–Mar	Seed only	80–100 (60–90)	24–48 / 60	1½–2

Seed only means sow directly, or use transplants grown in containers with a well-developed root ball. Central FL is the band between State Roads 40 and 70.

Source: UF/IFAS Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide (SP 103).

BEST VARIETIES

Picked for Florida conditions

These are the UF/IFAS recommendations for Florida home gardens. Varieties bred for the north often fail in Florida's heat and humidity, so start with these.

Crop	Varieties to try
Beans, bush	Contender, Provider, Roma II, Blue Lake, Cherokee Wax
Beans, pole	McCaslan, Kentucky Wonder, Blue Lake, Rattlesnake
Beans, lima	Fordhook 242, Henderson, Jackson Wonder, Dixie Butterpea
Broccoli	Early Green, Early Dividend, Waltham, Packman, De Cicco
Cabbage	Rio Verde, Flat Dutch, Copenhagen Market, Savoy, Red Acre
Carrots	Nantes, Danvers, Chantenay, Emperor
Collards	Georgia, Georgia Southern, Top Bunch, Vates
Corn, sweet	Silver Queen, Sweet Ice (white); Early Sunglow, Sweet Riser (yellow)
Cucumbers	Sweet Success, Poinsett, Ashley, Straight Eight; Boston Pickling for pickles
Eggplant	Black Beauty, Dusky, Ichiban, Cloud Nine
Lettuce	Leaf types grow best: Salad Bowl, Red Sails, Oak Leaf. Head lettuce only in the coolest months
Okra	Clemson Spineless, Emerald, Annie Oakley II, Cajun Delight
Peppers	Sweet: California Wonder, Big Bertha, Cubanelle. Hot: Jalapeño, Cherry Bomb, Habanero
Potatoes, Irish	Red Pontiac, Yukon Gold, Gold Rush
Potatoes, sweet	Beauregard, Centennial, Vardaman, Boniato
Squash	Summer: Early Prolific Straightneck, Summer Crookneck. Zucchini: Spineless Beauty. Winter: Table King, Early Butternut
Seminole pumpkin	The Florida heirloom itself. Takes summer heat and humidity in its stride
Strawberries	South and Central Florida: Sweet Sensation, Medallion, Brilliance, Ember
Tomatoes	Large: Celebrity, Heat Wave II, Better Boy. Small: Sweet 100, Juliet, Sun Gold. Heirloom: Cherokee Purple
Watermelon	Large: Jubilee, Crimson Sweet. Small: Sugar Baby

For tomatoes, look for varieties labeled resistant to tomato spotted wilt virus (TSWV). It's common in Florida.

SUMMER SURVIVAL

Heat, rain and hurricanes

From June to September, heat, daily storms, insects and disease make most vegetables struggle. Hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30. You have three good options, and you can mix them across your beds.

OPTION 1: GROW THE HEAT LOVERS

Sweet potatoes, southern peas, okra, Seminole pumpkin and Malabar spinach all handle a Florida summer. Seminole pumpkin is ready 3 to 4 months after planting and stores for months. Soak Malabar spinach seed overnight before sowing.

OPTION 2: SOLARIZE YOUR BEDS

- Clear the bed and water the soil well.
- Cover it with clear plastic and bury the edges so no air gets in.
- Leave it through the 6 hottest weeks of summer. The sun heats the soil enough to kill many weeds, pests and diseases.
- In August, remove the plastic, add compost and you're ready for fall.

OPTION 3: SOW A COVER CROP

Cowpeas, sunn hemp or velvet bean protect bare soil from the rain and add organic matter when you dig them in. Sunn hemp also helps suppress nematodes.

STORM CHECKLIST

- In May, check trees for weak branches.
- Make sure beds drain and nothing sits in standing water.
- Before a storm, harvest what you can, lay down tall supports and move containers inside.

PESTS AND PROBLEMS

Spot them early, fix them gently

Walk your garden twice a week and check both sides of the leaves. Most fruiting plants can lose 10 to 20% of their leaves without losing any harvest, so don't spray at the first nibble.

Problem	What you'll see	Usually on	What to do
Caterpillars	Ragged holes in leaves, green droppings	Broccoli, cabbage, collards, kale	Pick off by hand. Spray Bt, which only affects caterpillars
Aphids	Clusters on new growth, sticky curled leaves	Greens, brassicas, peppers	Blast off with water, then insecticidal soap or neem. Go easy on nitrogen
Whiteflies	Tiny white insects fly up when disturbed	Tomatoes, squash, beans	Insecticidal soap or neem on leaf undersides
Cutworms	Young transplants cut off at soil level	Tomatoes, peppers, brassicas	Collar round each stem, 1 inch below and a few inches above soil
Spider mites	Fine yellow speckling, webbing in dry spells	Beans, tomatoes, eggplant	Horticultural oil, tested on a few leaves first
Slugs and snails	Ragged holes, slime trails	Lettuce, seedlings	Iron phosphate bait. Avoid metaldehyde, which is toxic to pets
Nematodes	Stunted plants, knotted swollen roots	Tomatoes, okra, many crops	Rotate, add organic matter, solarize, grow sunn hemp
Powdery mildew	White powder on leaf surfaces	Squash, cucumbers, melons	Remove worst leaves. Sulfur-based fungicide
Leaf spots and blights	Brown spots spreading in wet weather	Tomatoes and most crops	Remove spotted leaves early, water the soil not the leaves, use a labeled fungicide early

WHEN TO WATCH

Season	Main problems
Fall	Caterpillars on brassicas, whiteflies on early tomatoes, heat-loving insects on August and September plantings
Winter	Aphids on greens and brassicas, cold damage on rare frosty nights
Spring	Spider mites in dry weather, powdery mildew on squash and melons
Summer	Leaf spots and fungal disease in the rains, nematodes in warm soil

Use the gentlest fix first, spray late in the day to protect bees, and always follow the label.

SUCCESSION PLANTING

Keep the harvest coming

Instead of sowing a whole row at once, sow a little every few weeks. You'll get a steady supply rather than a glut and then nothing.

Crop	Sow again	Window (South FL)
Radishes	Every 2 weeks	Oct–Mar
Arugula	Every 2–3 weeks	Oct–Mar
Lettuce	Every 2–3 weeks	Sep–Feb
Carrots	Every 3–4 weeks	Sep–Mar
Bush beans	Every 3–4 weeks	Sep–Apr
Sweet corn	Every 2–3 weeks, in blocks of 4+ short rows	Oct–Mar
Tomatoes	Every 6–8 weeks	Aug–Feb
Cucumbers and summer squash	Every 4 weeks	Sep–Feb

PLAN BACKWARDS FROM YOUR HARVEST

Pick the date you want to eat it and subtract the days to harvest. For a crop that takes 66 days, a December 15 harvest means sowing around October 10. Days to harvest for every crop are in the Crop Reference.

ROTATE BY FAMILY

Avoid planting the same family in the same spot season after season.

Family	Crops
Cabbage family	Broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, collards, kale, kohlrabi, mustard, radishes, turnips, arugula
Tomato family	Tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, Irish potatoes
Squash family	Cucumbers, squash, pumpkins, cantaloupe, watermelon
Bean family	Bush, pole and lima beans, southern peas, snow peas
Beet family	Beets, spinach, Swiss chard
Carrot family	Carrots, celery
Others	Lettuce and endive (aster family); onions (lily family); okra; sweet potatoes; corn

GARDEN LAYOUT

Plan your beds

Bed: _____ Size: _____ Season: _____

A blank sheet of graph paper featuring a uniform grid of small squares. The grid is composed of thin, light gray lines. There are 20 columns and 20 rows of squares, creating a total of 400 small square units. The paper has a clean, white background, and the grid lines extend to the edges of the page.

Each small square is 1 foot. Bold lines mark every 4 feet, the size of a standard raised bed.

SEED INVENTORY

What you have and what you need

Crop	Variety	Source	Year	Quantity	Sow by

PLANTING & HARVEST LOG

Record it while you remember

[illegible]



GARDEN NOTES

Florida Edition



WHAT I PLANTED

WHAT WORKED

CHANGE NEXT YEAR

