

GROWING VEGETABLES IN THE GREENHOUSE

- excerpted from the book "Greenhouse Gardener's Companion," by Shane Smith © 2000-2013

A vegetable production schedule is not as critical if your greenhouse has supplementary heat and a good ventilation system, and if you are able and willing to control the temperature to a consistent 70° F (21° C) during the day and 60° (15° C) at night. If this is the case for your greenhouse, greenhouse climate can accommodate the vegetable crop and you can grow most any vegetable any time of the year.

Many people must run their greenhouse or sunspace at cooler temperatures in winter, usually to save energy costs, while those with solar-heated greenhouses are at the mercy of the natural temperatures that their structure creates. In these situations you must fit the type of vegetable crop into the climate rather than fitting the climate to the plant. The following schedules can simplify the selection process for what will do best at what time of year, given these more challenging different night temperatures.

The following two schedules are designed for the timing of optimum growth and harvest of many different vegetable crops. I encourage you to fine-tune these schedules for your own particular circumstances. Of course you don't have to follow this schedule but chances are you may notice a drop in both the performance and yield if you vary too far, unless your greenhouse is supplementary heated. One schedule is for a warmer greenhouse and one is for a cooler greenhouse.

Planting Growing and Harvesting (P, G, H) Schedule

The following schedules are coded like this: P designates a possible month to plant the crop. G indicates good months to be growing the crop toward maturity. H means the crop, if grown to maturity, could be harvested during these months. There are many variables involved in growing vegetables in a greenhouse that make it difficult to be totally accurate. But this general guide should help you in much of your planning.

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Warm Greenhouse Vegetable Schedule

This chart applies to greenhouses that run winter night temperatures above 45° F (7° C) and to solar greenhouses that are in a climate that receives a winter monthly average of 45 percent or more of possible sunshine as listed by your closest National Weather Service office (see Average Percentage of Sunshine for Selected Locations - visit this [link](#)).

Crop June July

Beans, bush	PGH	PGH
Beans, fava	H	
Beans, lima	PG	PGH
Beans, pole	PGH	PGH
Beets	H	
Broccoli		
Brussels sprouts		
Cabbage		
Cantaloupe	PG	GH
Carrots	PGH	PGH
Cauliflower		
Collards	GH	
Cucumber	PGH	PGH
Eggplant	PG	PGH
Garlic	PGH	PGH
Kale		
Kohlrabi	GH	
Lettuce		
Okra	PG	PGH
Onions, bulbs	GH	GH
Onions, greens	PGH	PGH
Parsley	PGH	PGH
Peas		
Peppers	PGH	PGH
Radish		
Spinach		
Spinach, New Zealand	PGH	PGH
Squash, summer	PGH	GH
Squash, winter	GH	GH
Swiss chard	PGH	PGH
Tomatoes	PGH	PGH
Turnips		
Watermelon	PG	GH

Scroll down to view Cool Greenhouse Vegetable Schedule

Cool Greenhouse Vegetable Schedule

This chart applies to greenhouses that run winter night temperatures below 45° F (7° C) and to solar greenhouses that are in a climate that receives a winter monthly average of less than 45 percent of possible sunshine as listed by your closest National Weather Service office (see Average Percentage of Sunshine for Selected Locations appendix).

Months

Crop June July

Beans, bush	PGH	PGH
Beans, fava	H	
Beans, lima	PG	GH
Beans, pole	PGH	PGH
Beets		
Broccoli		
Brussels sprouts		
Cabbage	H	
Cantaloupe	PG	GH
Carrots	PGH	PGH
Cauliflower		
Celery		
Collards	H	
Cucumber	PGH	PGH
Eggplant	PG	PGH
Garlic	PGH	PGH
Kale		
Kohlrabi	H	
Lettuce		
Okra	PG	PGH
Onions, bulbs	GH	GH
Onions, green	PGH	PGH
Parsley	PGH	PGH
Peas		
Peppers	PGH	PGH
Radish		
Spinach		
Spinach, New Zealand	PGH	PGH
Squash, summer	PGH	GH
Squash, winter	PGH	GH
Swiss chard	PGH	PGH
Tomatoes	PGH	PGH
Turnips		
Watermelon	PG	GH