



Michigan Gardening Calendar

The following monthly planting dates are based on Zone 6a.

- Plant 1 week earlier in Zone 6b
- Plant 1 week later in Zone 5b
- Plant 2 weeks later in Zone 5a

(Always adjust based on local weather conditions.)

Soil temperature is more important than air temperature.

- Cool-season crops germinate best at 55°F+
- Warm-season crops need 75°F+

Warm soil speeds germination and reduces disease risk.

Most vegetables can be planted from July to September for a fall harvest.

Check “days to maturity” and count backward from the first frost.

Cool-season crops tolerate light frost and often improve in flavor after a chill.

Start spring transplants indoors approximately 4 weeks before outdoor planting. Check the seed packet for exact timing.

Harden off plants 7–10 days before transplanting outdoors.

Cool-season crops = leaves, stems, roots (lettuce, kale)

Warm-season crops = fruits (tomatoes, peppers, corn)

March	Plant
	Peas Spinach Lettuce
	Garden Tasks
	Soil Test Prepare Beds Clean tools

April	Plant
	Carrots Swiss Beets Chard Radishes Potatoes Onion Sets Spinach
	Garden Tasks
	Thin Seedlings Mulch Start warm crops indoors

May	Plant	After Frost:
	Broccoli Cabbage Kale Bush Beans	Tomatoes Peppers Cucumbers Squash Eggplant
	Garden Tasks	
	Harden off Plants Thin early seedlings	

June	Plant
	Pole Pumpkins Beans Sweet Melons Corn
	Garden Tasks
	Weed & Mulch Water regularly Scout Pests Stake tomatoes & peas

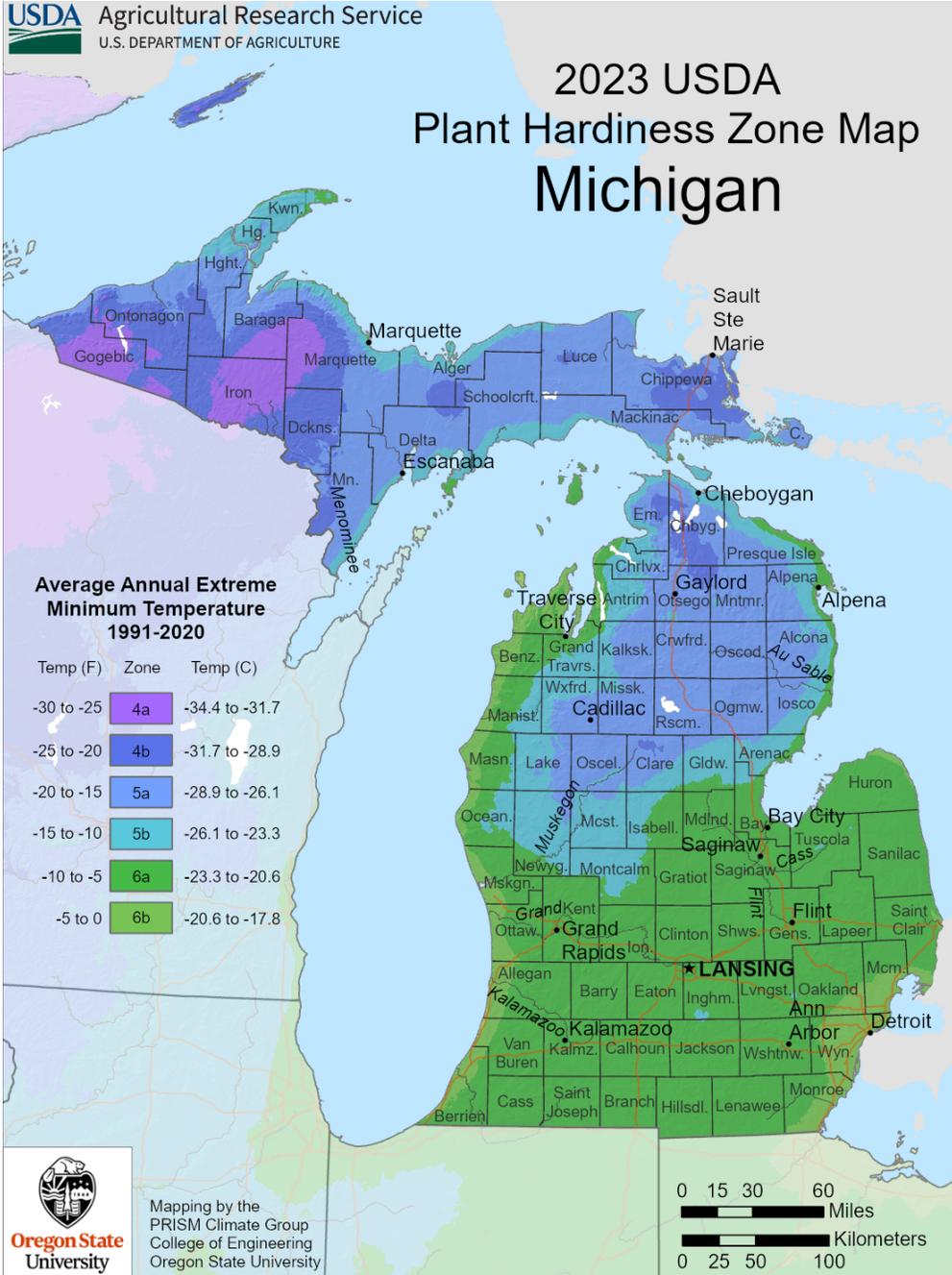
July	Plant (Fall Crops)
	Radishes Lettuce Turnips Spinach
	Garden Tasks
	Weed routinely Maintain irrigation Harvest often Fertilize if needed Monitor for pests & diseases

August	Plant (Fall Crops)
	Broccoli Collards Kale Beets
	Garden Tasks
	Shade seedlings Continue harvest Monitor for pests & diseases

September	Plant
	Garlic Cover crops
	Garden Tasks
	Remove spent plants Watch for first frost

October	Garden Tasks
	Harvest remaining crops Clean beds Amend soil with organic matter Mulch garlic

November	Garden Tasks
	Soil Test Mulch garden Clean & Store tools Review season Plan next year’s garden



Average Last Spring Frost

- Zone 4a: June 1 - June 15
- Zone 4b: May 25 - June 10
- Zone 5a: May 20 - May 30
- Zone 5b: May 10 - May 25
- Zone 6a: May 1 - May 15
- Zone 6b: April 15 - April 30

Average First Fall Frost

- Zone 4a: Sept. 5 - Sept. 20
- Zone 4b: Sept. 10 - Sept. 25
- Zone 5a: Sept. 20 - Oct. 1
- Zone 5b: Sept. 25 - Oct. 10
- Zone 6a: Oct. 6 - Oct. 21
- Zone 6b: Oct. 15 - Oct. 31

These are approximate ranges for most years across each zone

Michigan Plant Hardiness Zone Map



MSU Enviroweather (Soil temp, moisture & rainfall)



MSU Extension Gardening in Michigan

