

# URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

## Growing and Harvesting in Maine

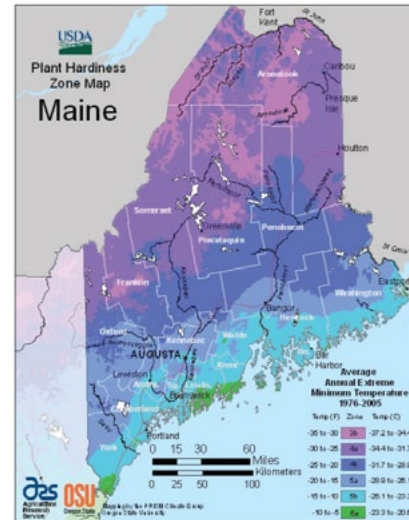
USDA Hardiness Zones in Maine range from zone 3 to zone 6. Since most of these zones are in cooler areas, Maine may have a shorter growing season depending on where in the state the gardener resides. The northern half of the state is evenly divided between zones 3 and 4, whereas a strip through the middle of the state is zone 4b. Southern Maine is dominated by zone 5, with the southern most tip being in zone 6. Since much of Maine is in cooler zones, frost dates are likely to begin earlier in the year and end later. First frost dates can be as early as the first few days of September in places such as Presque Isle and stretch to as late as the first of October in Bar Harbor. Last frost dates are as early as mid-May in places like Bar Harbor, but they may last as long as early June in places such as Presque Isle.

### What to plant and when:

Since it is at the most northeastern state, Maine has a wide range of USDA Hardiness Zones, but many of these zones are on the cooler side, such as Zone 3. This makes for a much shorter growing season in those zones, and gardeners must pay attention to what zone they reside in and when to plant the vegetables at the right time so they aren't damaged by cooler weather.

#### Zone 3:

- **April:** Begin tomatoes and pepper plants inside.
- **May:** Begin spinach, peas, lettuce, kale, cauliflower, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, broccoli and beets inside. Plant potatoes outside.



[Maine Planting Calendar on ufseeds.com](http://Maine Planting Calendar on ufseeds.com)

- **June:** Transplant tomatoes, peppers, spinach, peas, lettuce, kale, cauliflower, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, broccoli and beets outside. Begin beans, cucumbers and carrots inside.
- **July:** Plant beans, cucumber and carrots outside.

#### Zone 4:

- **April:** Begin beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, kale, onions, peas, peppers, spinach and tomatoes inside. Plant potatoes outside.
- **May:** Plant beets, broccoli, carrots, kale, lettuce, peas and spinach outside.
- **June:** Begin beans inside. Plant Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, onions, peppers and tomatoes outside. Begin corn, squash and cucumbers inside.
- **July:** Plant beans, corn, cucumber and squash outside. Begin beets, broccoli, carrots, kale, lettuce and spinach inside.
- **August:** Plant beets, broccoli, carrots, kale, lettuce and spinach inside.



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### Zone 5:

- **March:** Begin broccoli inside. Plant potatoes outside.
- **April:** Plant broccoli outside. begin beets, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, kale, lettuce, onions, peas, peppers, spinach and tomatoes inside. Near the end of the month, plant carrots, kale, peas and spinach outside.
- **May:** Begin beans, squash, corn and cucumbers inside. Plant beets, onions and tomatoes outside.
- **June:** Plant Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, corn, cucumber, peppers and squash outside.
- **July:** Begin beets, broccoli, kale, spinach, lettuce and peas outside.
- **August:** Plant beets, broccoli, kale, lettuce, peas and spinach outside. Begin carrots inside.
- **September:** Plant carrots outside.

### Zone 6:

- **March:** Begin beets, broccoli, cauliflower, kale, lettuce, onions, peppers, peas, spinach and tomatoes inside. Plant potatoes outside.
- **April:** Plant beets, broccoli, cauliflower, kale, lettuce, onions, peppers, peas, spinach and tomatoes inside. Plant potatoes outside.
- **May:** Plant carrots, onions, pepper and tomatoes outside. Begin beans, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, corn, cucumber and squash inside.
- **June:** Plant beans, corn, cucumbers and squash outside.
- **July:** Plant Brussels sprouts and cabbage outside. Begin spinach, beets and broccoli inside.



[Vegetable seeds and plants available at ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)

- **August:** Plant beets and broccoli outside. Begin peas, kale, lettuce and carrots inside.
- **September:** Plant kale, peas, lettuce, spinach and carrots outside.

## Maine's soil and how it affects agriculture:

there are only two dominant soil orders in Maine, and they are as follows:

**Spodosols:** The main soil type in Maine is Spodosols. These soils encompass nearly the entire state. Spodosols are typically found in eastern gulf states, and they are more on the acidic side. These would be a good soil to grow plants in that prefer more acidic soil. Acidic soil would be soil with a pH less than 7.0, and plants to grow in these soils include radishes, sweet potatoes, parsley, broccoli and many others.

**Inceptisols:** These soils spread out throughout Maine in thin stretches. Inceptisols are the most common soil across the earth, and they have decent drainage.



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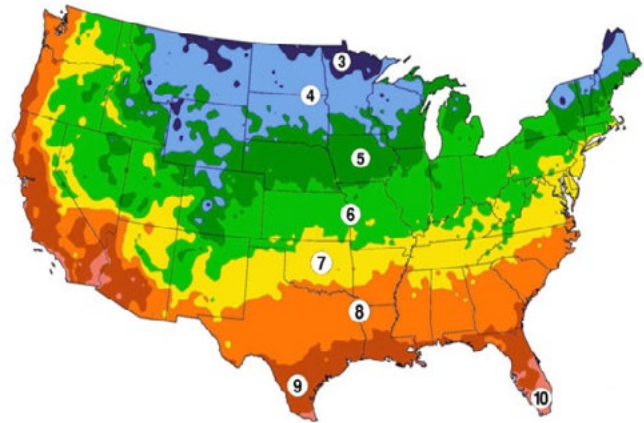
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They can grow crops decently well.

## Average rainfall in Maine:

Maine receives its yearly precipitation amounts in both snow and rainfall. On the Maine coast, average annual precipitation varies from 45.8 inches a year to 56.7 inches a year. In Central Maine, average annual precipitation ranges from 39.3 inches a year to 45.1 inches a year. In Northern Maine, average annual rainfall varies from 35.8 inches a year to 47.2 inches a year.

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[USDA Hardiness Gardening Zone Finder on ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)



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