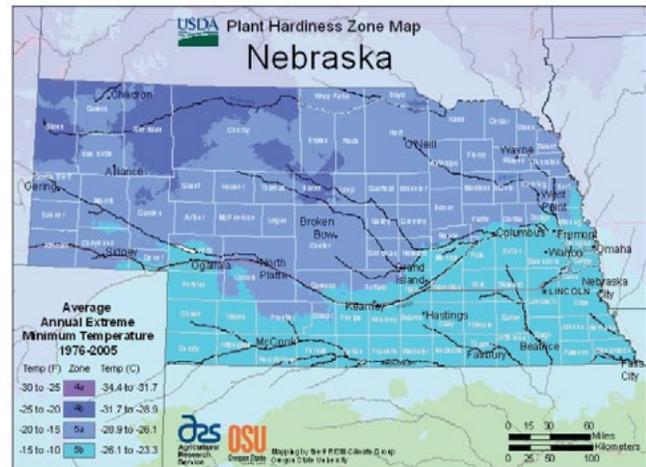


# URBAN FARMER

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## Growing and Harvesting in Nebraska

Nebraska resides in USDA Hardiness Zones 4 and 5, with the cooler zones at the top of the state. Zone 4 includes much of the northwestern corner of Nebraska, whereas Zone 5 encompasses the rest of the state. First frost dates can begin as early as Sept. 10 in North Platte and as late as early October in Falls City. Last frost dates can be as early as May 3 in Falls City and as late as the end of May in North Platte and Scottsbluff.



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

### What to plant and when:

Nebraska only encompasses two USDA Hardiness Zones, meaning its growing season doesn't differ too much on what to plant and when depending on where you live in the state. Pay attention to planting dates to avoid planting too early or too late, which could be detrimental to the vegetable's growth.

#### 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 and spinach inside.
- **August:** Plant beets, broccoli, carrots, kale, lettuce and spinach inside.

#### 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.

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

Nebraska's state soil is a type of soil called Holdredge, which encompasses nearly 1.8 million acres throughout the state, mostly in south central Nebraska. These soils are typically used for crop growth, specifically corn, soybeans and small grains. Holdredge soils are silty and have good drainage. They are in areas that are both level, as well as along slopes. Holdredge soils are



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fertile, and they possess a desirable tilth that leads to use of the soil for agricultural purposes. Good soil statewide has played a hand in allowing Nebraska to be one of the nation's leaders in agriculture. There are nearly 50,000 farms and ranches across the state, and agriculture in Nebraska leads to jobs and helps boost the economy. A big part of agriculture is soil, and the majority of Nebraska is made up of Mollisols, a dominant soil order that is known for its fertility and excellent crop growth.

**Mollisols:** Mollisols encompass nearly the entire state of Nebraska, probably aiding in making Nebraska a prime state for agriculture and farming. These soils are fertile and excellent for crop growth. Mollisols are darker in color than most soils.

**Alfisols:** These soils have intermittent stretches mostly in the southern part of the state. They also can be found in the northeastern corner. Alfisols are fertile and excellent for crop growth. Although they are much more limited than mollisols, they are the second most present soil order in the state.

**Inceptisols:** These soils are only found along the southern border of Nebraska, as well as a very small cluster along the northeastern border. Inceptisols are the most common soil across the earth, and they have decent drainage. They can grow crops decently well.

**Ultisols:** These dominant soil orders are not very present in Nebraska, only found in the southeastern corner of the state. Ultisols are red, clayey soils that are more acidic than



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other soils. They typically allow for mixed forest growth. Ultisols have few minerals and nutrients, but they can be successful for agriculture use if amended with lime and fertilizer.

## Average rainfall in Nebraska:

Nebraska receives different amounts of annual precipitation depending on which area of the state you reside in. Nebraska receives its annual precipitation in both rain and snowfall. In Eastern Nebraska, average annual rainfall ranges from 27.4 inches a year in Norfolk to 34.8 inches a year in Falls City. Southern Nebraska sees a little bit less precipitation each year, ranging from 19.3 inches a year in both Enders Reservoir and Lake McConaughy, Kingsley Dam to 28 inches a year in Hastings.

North central Nebraska's average annual precipitation ranges from 20 inches a year in Valentine to 25.3 inches a year in O'Neill. Western Nebraska sees the lowest average annual precipitation in the state, ranging



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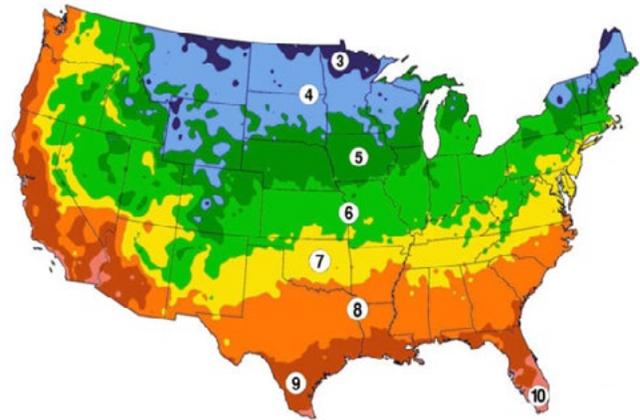
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from 15.8 inches a year in Scottsbluff to 18.1 inches a year in Chadron.

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[USDA Hardiness Gardening Zone Finder](#)  
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