

URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

Pros and cons to fall seeding:

As weather starts to cool in the fall, it may seem like the perfect time to plant cool-weather crops outside. They benefit from soil that's already been warmed up for the season but without the strength of a midsummer sun. However, there are both pros and cons to seeding better in the fall as compared to the spring, it's important to be aware of all the pros and cons of both fall and spring seeding so you can make the best decision for your plants and garden.

Pros:

Fall seeding, which is classified as planting from mid-October until the ground freezes, has many pros. These pros are sometimes specific to certain areas, such as clay soils are easier to work in the fall than in the spring. However, if you don't have clay soil, this doesn't affect you. Other pros to fall seeding include the fact that there are higher moisture levels at the germination time, meaning gardeners don't have to water so much in those first few weeks of plant life. There are also pros to frost seeding, which is when seeds are planted in the early winter just before snowfall or during snow-free periods. These pros include no raking of the site, high moisture levels, and cold stratification will naturally occur, allowing seeds to germinate in the spring. Cooler temperatures in the fall also lead to higher germination rates in seeds. The plant's establishment, such as flowers, is better as well and planting in the fall helps improve overall growth because the plant becomes more established over the winter months versus being planted immediately in the spring. When partnered with spring planting, fall planting is an excellent and healthy way to extend your harvest.



[Garden seeds available at ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)

Cons:

In addition to the many pros of fall seeding, there are also several cons gardeners should take into account. One major con is sites that are prone to erosion need a cover crop sowing earlier than the seeding of whatever you're planting in the fall. This will help prevent erosion. Planting in the spring allows for the benefits of the cold weather over the winter killing off certain pests and diseases for fresh planting. When planting in the fall, pests and diseases have had the opportunity to flourish all summer long in the heat. There also are less plants available to planting the fall, and only cool-weather crops will flourish. Some plants, like tomatoes and peppers, require a long, hot growing season and the best way to produce a good crop is by only growing those plants in the spring and through the summer.



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