

# URBAN FARMER

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## Growing and Harvesting in Rhode Island

Rhode Island is lumped in with Connecticut's USDA Hardiness Zones, and the zones are 5 through 7. Across the two states, zone five begins in the northeastern corner of Connecticut and the zones increase in their number the further west and further south you travel. First frost dates can occur as late as the end of October in Rock Island and last frost dates can be as early mid-April.

### What to plant and when:

Since temperatures, frost dates and season start times change in Rhode Island with each USDA Hardiness Zone, pay close attention to which crops you want to plant and when. Zone 5 will be a shorter growing season than Zone 6 and 7, and it is important to know the best times to start your vegetables and transplant them so they have the best chance at growth.

#### Zone 5:

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



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

lettuce, peas and spinach outside. Begin carrots inside.

- **September:** Plant carrots outside.

#### Zone 6:

- **March:** Begin beets, broccoli, cauliflower, kale, lettuce, onions, peas, spinach and other cool-weather crops inside at this time.
- **April:** Transplant beets, broccoli, cauliflower, kale, peas and spinach outdoors. Begin carrots, tomatoes and peppers inside.
- **May:** Transplant carrots and onion outdoors. Begin squash, corn, cucumbers, beans, Brussels sprouts and cabbage indoors.
- **June:** Transplant peppers and tomatoes outdoors.
- **July:** Transplant beans, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, corn, cucumbers and squash outdoors. Begin spinach, carrots, beets and broccoli indoors to start the fall harvest crops.



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- **August:** Begin kale, lettuce and peas indoors. Transplant spinach outdoors.
- **September:** Transplant kale, lettuce, peas, carrots, broccoli and beets outdoors.

### Zone 7:

- **February:** Begin broccoli, cauliflower and peas indoors.
- **March:** Begin beets, cabbage, carrots, kale, lettuce, onions, peppers, spinach and tomato indoors. Near the end of March, transplant broccoli, carrots, peas and cauliflower outdoors.
- **April:** Transplant kale, lettuce and spinach outdoors. Begin beans and Brussels sprouts indoors.
- **May:** Transplant onions, peppers and tomatoes outdoors. Begin corn, cucumbers and squash indoors.
- **June:** Transplant beans, Brussels sprouts, corn, cucumbers and squash outdoors.
- **July:** Begin cabbage indoors.
- **August:** Begin beets, broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, kale, lettuce, peas and spinach indoors. Near the end of the month, transplant cabbage outdoors.
- **September:** Transplant beets, broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, kale, lettuce, peas and spinach outdoors for the fall harvest.

## Rhode Island's soil and how it affects agriculture:

Because agriculture is one of the state's top industries, that must mean the soil is pretty good. Rhode Island consists of three dominant soil orders throughout the region, and the largest portion of those are Inceptisols, which are fertile with decent drainage. The most popular items grown by Rhode Island farmers are sweet corn and



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apples, as well as potatoes in the southeastern part of the state.

**Inceptisols:** Rhode Island consists mostly of this dominant soil order. Nearly all of the state is Inceptisols soils. This is the most common soil across the earth, and it has decent drainage. These soils are older than Entisols, and they are mainly found in hilly or rocky areas, such as the Rocky Mountains or the Appalachian Mountains.

**Entisols:** Rhode Island has a very small grouping of Entisols throughout the state. The Entisols soils are in a small smattering in the center of the northern border. Entisols are newer soils, and consist of soils that don't fit into any other classification. These soils typically reside in rockier areas and are most concentrated in the Rocky Mountains.

**Ultisols:** This is also barely prevalent in Rhode Island, only available in the far southwestern quadrant in a small patch. Ultisols are acidic with a clay subsurface that has lots of iron. Because of their clay



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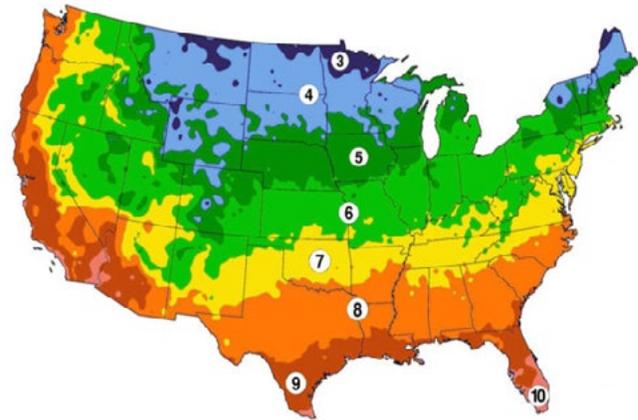
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and acidic richness, these soils are usually only suitable for forestry unless amended with lime and fertilizers.

### Average rainfall in Rhode Island:

Towns and cities in Rhode Island receive different amounts of rain and snowfall throughout the year. Average annual precipitation in Rhode Island varies from 42.6 inches a year in Block Island to 53.7 inches a year in North Foster. Block Island receives lesser amounts of rain and typically only experiences wet weather approximately 97 days out of the year. North Foster receives considerably more rain and has wet weather 136 days of the year.

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



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