



# Lower Peninsula 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)

<b>March</b>	<b>Plant</b>
	Peas Spinach Lettuce
	<b>Garden Tasks</b>
	Soil Test Prepare Beds Clean tools

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

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

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

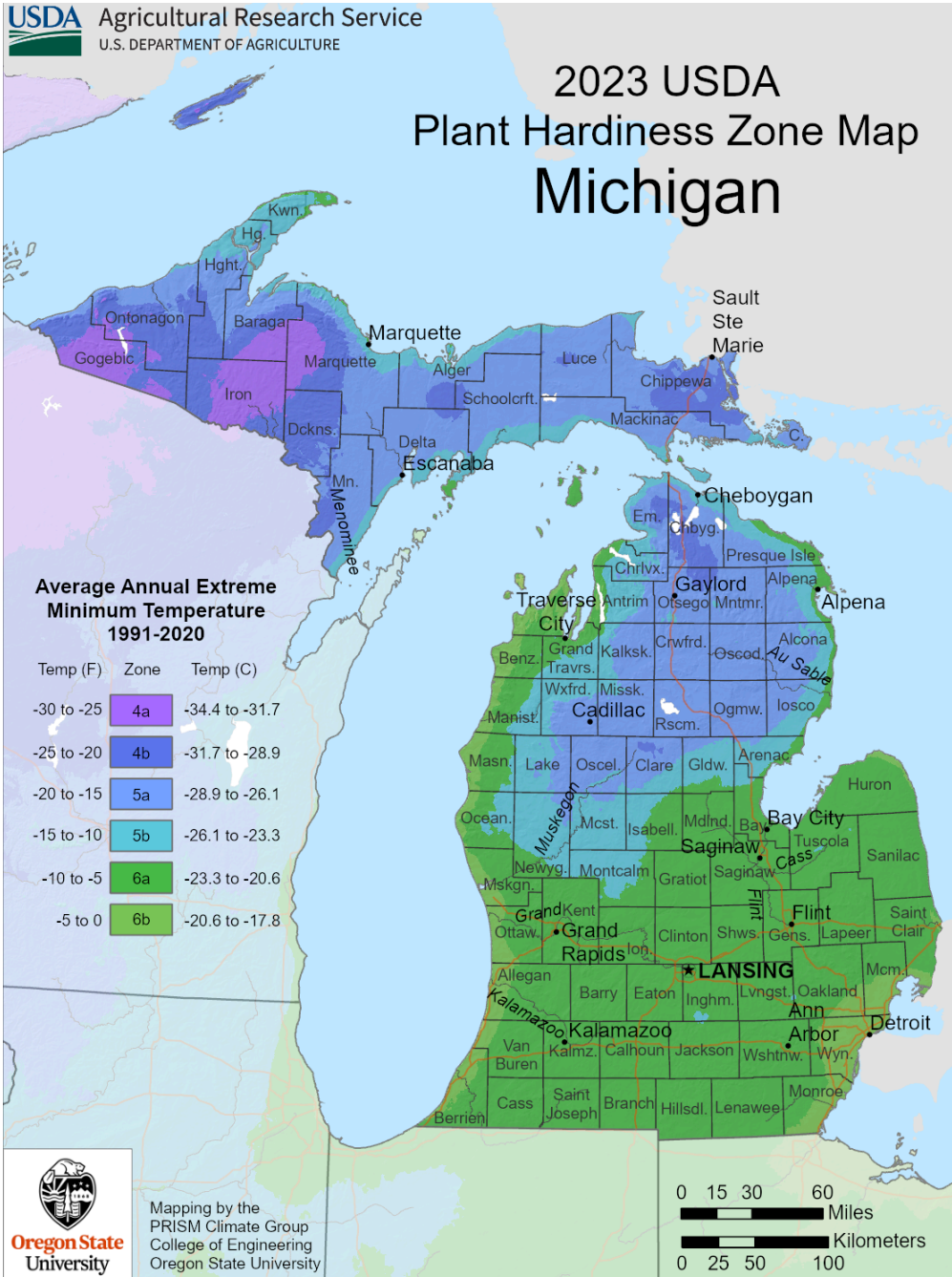
<b>July</b>	<b>Plant (Fall Crops)</b>
	Radishes Lettuce Turnips Spinach
	<b>Garden Tasks</b>
	Weed routinely Maintain irrigation Harvest often Fertilize if needed Monitor for pests & diseases

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

<b>September</b>	<b>Plant</b>
	Garlic Cover crops
	<b>Garden Tasks</b>
	Remove spent plants Watch for first frost

<b>October</b>	<b>Garden Tasks</b>
	Harvest remaining crops Clean beds Amend soil with organic matter Mulch garlic

<b>November</b>	<b>Garden Tasks</b>
	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**

