



Upper Peninsula Michigan Gardening Calendar

The following monthly planting dates are based on Zone 4b.

- Plant 1 week earlier in Zone 5a
- Plant 2 weeks earlier in Zone 5b
- Plant 1 week later in Zone 4a

(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 fall vegetables should be planted from July through early August in the Upper Peninsula.

Check “days to maturity” and count backward from your local first frost date.

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)



= This list can be planted as seeds or transplants

March

Plant (indoors)

Onions Peppers
Leeks Eggplant

Garden Tasks

Order Seeds
Create garden plan
Start indoor seedlings for warm season crops

April

Plant (indoors)

Broccoli Tomatoes
Cabbage Cucumbers
Cauliflower Zucchini
Kale Squash
Lettuce

Garden Tasks

Soil test as ground thaws
Start indoor seedlings

May

Plant Seed Outdoors:	After Frost:
Peas	Broccoli
Spinach	Cabbage
Lettuce	Cauliflower
Carrots	Kale
Potatoes	Onions (seedlings)
Onion Sets	Leeks
Radish	

Garden Tasks

Harden off Plants
Thin early seedlings

June

Plant

Zucchini Tomatoes
Pumpkins Peppers
Sweet Corn Eggplant
Beans Cucumbers

Garden Tasks

Weed & Mulch
Water regularly
Scout Pests
Stake tomatoes & peas

July

Plant (Fall Crops)

Turnips Lettuce
Radish Spinach
Kale

Garden Tasks

Weed routinely
Maintain irrigation
Harvest often
Fertilize if needed
Monitor for pests & diseases

August

Plant (Fall Crops)

Spinach Kale
Collards Beets

Garden Tasks

Shade seedlings
Continue harvest
remove spent plants
Monitor for pests & diseases

September

Plant

Garlic
Cover crops

Garden Tasks

Remove old plants
Watch for first frost

October

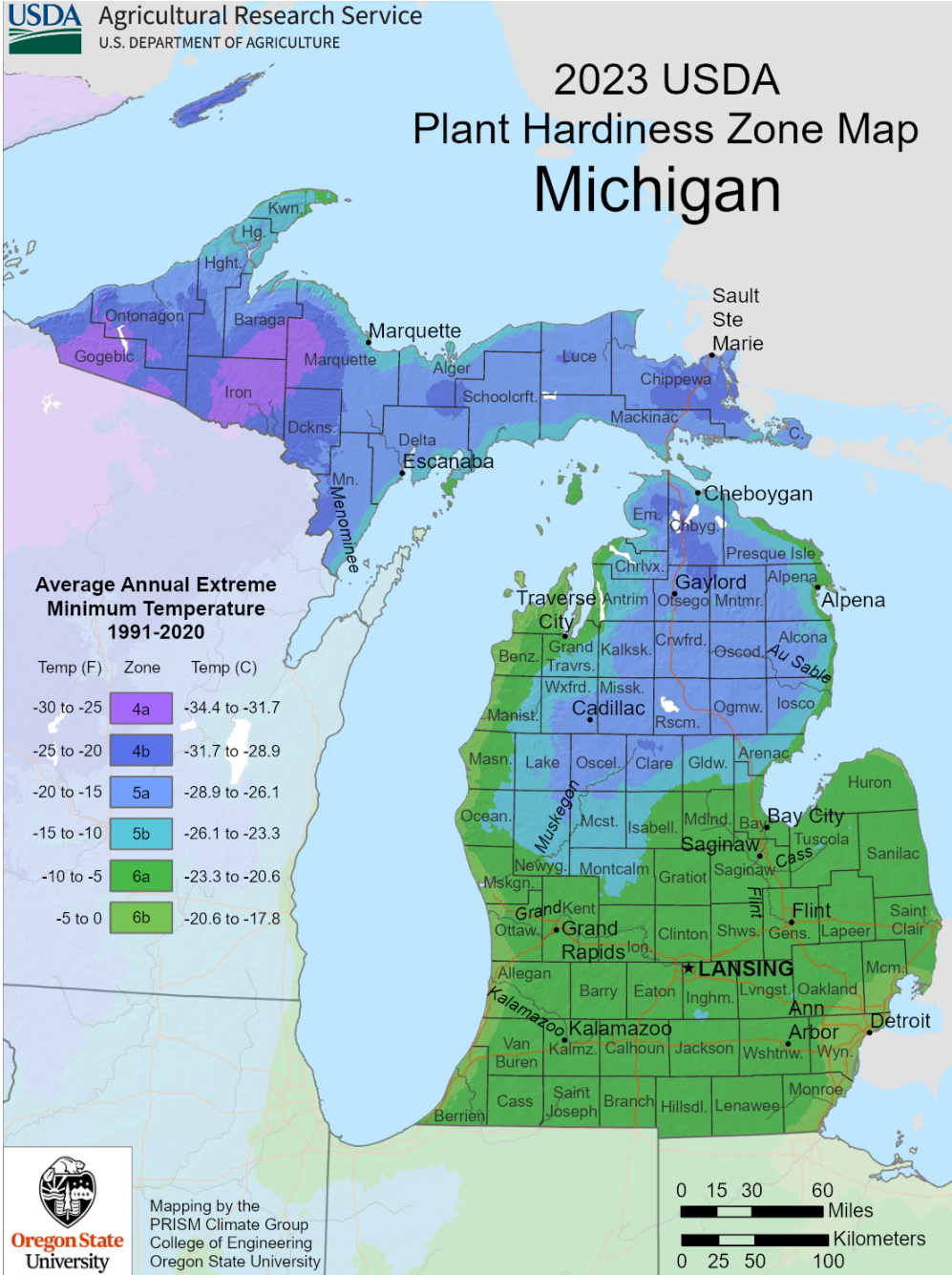
Garden Tasks

Harvest remaining crops
Clean beds
Amend soil with organic matter
Mulch garlic

November

Garden Tasks

Soil Test
(if ground isn't frozen)
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

