

URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

Growing and Harvesting in Louisiana

Louisiana is a warmer state, with its USDA Hardiness Zones reaching into zone 8 and zone 9. The zones progress from vertically, with the northern and central parts of the state in zone 8. The southern third of the state is mostly zone 9. First frost dates stretch as late as into early December in areas like New Orleans, with last frost dates ranging from late February to mid-March.

What to plant and when:

With Louisiana's USDA Hardiness Zones reaching into the warmer areas, this means the growing season can begin earlier and last longer, but some vegetables may not do well in the intense heat in the middle of the summer.

Zone 8:

- **February:** Begin beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, kale, lettuce, onions, peas, peppers, spinach and tomatoes indoors.
- **March:** Transplant beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, kale, lettuce, peas and spinach outdoors. Begin beans indoors.
- **April:** Transplant onions, peppers and tomatoes outdoors. Begin Brussels sprouts, squash, corn and cucumbers indoors.
- **May:** Transplant Brussels sprouts, corn and cucumbers outdoors.
- **June:** Transplant beans and squash outdoors.
- **August:** Begin beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, kale and lettuce indoors.



Louisiana Planting Calendar on ufseeds.com

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

Zone 9:

- **January:** Begin broccoli, lettuce, onions, peas, peppers, spinach and tomatoes indoors.
- **February:** Begin beets, beans, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, corn and cucumbers indoors. Transplant beets, broccoli, cabbage, lettuce, peas and spinach outdoors.
- **March:** Transplant cauliflower, tomatoes, peppers, onions, cucumbers, corn, carrots and beans outdoors. Begin Brussels sprouts and squash indoors.
- **April:** Transplant Brussels sprouts and squash outdoors.
- **July:** Begin peppers and tomatoes inside for a second season.



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- **August:** Begin broccoli, corn and cucumbers.
- **September:** Begin beans, beets, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, lettuce and spinach indoors. Transplant peppers, tomatoes and broccoli outside.
- **October:** Transplant beets, beans, cabbage, cauliflower, corn, cucumbers, lettuce and spinach outside. Begin peas and kale.
- **November:** Transplant peas and kale outside.

Louisiana's soil and how it affects agriculture:

There are many different types of soils throughout the state of Louisiana. They are as follows:

Alfisols: This soil is found in the western gulf coastal flatlands, the western coastal plains, the southern Mississippi valley loess, the southern Mississippi river terraces, the southern Mississippi river alluvium, the Red River alluvium, the gulf coast prairies, eastern gulf coast flatlands and the Arkansas river alluvium areas. These are fertile soils that are excellent for crop growth.

Entisols: This soil is found in the southern Mississippi valley loess, the southern Mississippi river alluvium, the southern coastal plains, the Red River alluvium, the gulf coast marsh, eastern gulf coast flatlands and the Arkansas river alluvium areas. Entisols are sometimes able to be used for crop growth, although some types of these soils are sandy or shallow and don't hold moisture well.

Histosols: This soil is found in the gulf coast



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marsh and eastern gulf coast flatlands. These soils are rich in organic matter.

Spodosols: This soil is only found in the eastern gulf coast flatlands. These soils are acidic, and only good for growing acid-tolerant plants in.

Ultisols: This soil is found in the western gulf coastal flatlands, the western coastal plains, the southern Mississippi valley loess, the southern coastal plains and eastern gulf coast flatlands. These are red, clayey soils with a higher acid content.

Mollisols: This soil is only found in the gulf coast prairies. These soils are fertile and excellent for crop growth. These soils have a darker coloring to them.

Vertisols: This soil is found in the southern Mississippi river alluvium, the Red River alluvium, the gulf coast prairies and the Arkansas river alluvium areas. These are very clay-like and have a high-nutrient content, but they aren't good for cultivation



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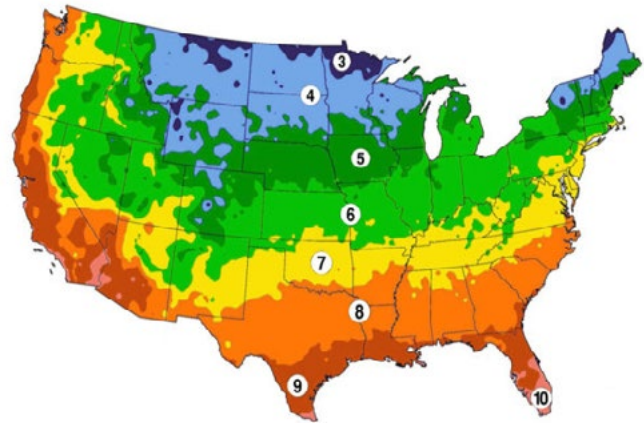
due to their high clay content unless they are amended with compost or manure.

Inceptisols: This soil is found in the southern coastal plains, the southern Mississippi valley loess, the southern Mississippi river alluvium, the southern coastal plains, the Red River alluvium and the Arkansas river alluvium areas. This is the most common soil across the earth, and they have decent drainage.

Average rainfall in Louisiana:

Louisiana experiences heavier rainfall than most states, likely due to its proximity to the ocean. In the Gulf Coast, average annual rainfall varies from 57.5 inches a year up to 62.7 inches a year in New Orleans. In the Florida Parishes, average annual rainfall varies from 58.8 inches a year up to 62.6 inches a year. Average annual rainfall in central Louisiana varies from 55.5 inches a year to 60.9 inches a year. Average annual rainfall in northern Louisiana varies from 51.4 inches a year to 57.3 inches a year.

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



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