

# URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

## Growing and Harvesting in Idaho

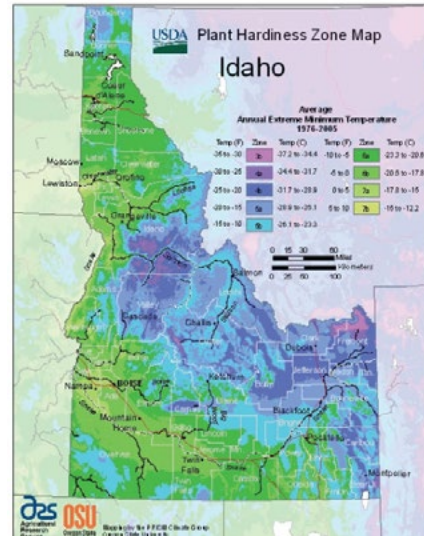
Idaho may be known for its potatoes, but since its USDA Hardiness Zones vary from zone 3 to zone 7, the environment is ideal for many cool-weather crops and warm-weather crops can be grown if planted at the right times during the season. Idaho's zones aren't exactly linear, and the top of the state has a small portion for zone 3, where it changes into zone 6 until the middle of the state. Then, mostly the west sides are in zone 5 or zone 6 with some strips in zone 7, and the central part of the state to the east side is mostly zone 4 intermixed with some zone 5 and zone 3. Idaho's first frost dates can begin as soon as early September in some parts of the state. Boise's first frost date doesn't begin until early October. Idaho's last frost dates can stretch into mid-June in some areas, such as Idaho Falls. Boise's last frost date is in early May. Since Idaho's most commonly known for potatoes, be sure to plant them outside two to three weeks before the last frost date.

### What to plant and when:

Since Idaho's USDA Hardiness Zones vary, with many parts of the state on the cooler side of the scale, the planting schedule varies for different vegetables.

#### Zone 3:

- **April:** Begin tomatoes and pepper plants inside.
- **May:** Begin spinach, peas, lettuce, kale, cauliflower, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, broccoli and beets inside. Plant potatoes outside.
- **June:** Transplant tomatoes, peppers, spinach, peas, lettuce, kale, cauliflower, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, broccoli and



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

beets outside. Begin beans, cucumbers and carrots inside.

- **July:** Plant beans, cucumber and carrots outside.

#### Zone 4:

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

#### Zone 5:

- **March:** Begin broccoli inside. Plant



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potatoes outside.

- **April:** Plant broccoli outside. Begin beets, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, kale, lettuce, onions, peas, peppers, spinach and tomatoes inside. Near the end of the month, plant carrots, kale, peas and spinach outside.
- **May:** Begin beans, squash, corn and cucumbers inside. Plant beets, onions and tomatoes outside.
- **June:** Plant Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, corn, cucumber, peppers and squash outside.
- **July:** Begin beets, broccoli, kale, spinach, lettuce and peas outside.
- **August:** Plant beets, broccoli, kale, lettuce, peas and spinach outside. Begin carrots inside.
- **September:** Plant carrots outside.

### Zone 6:

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



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spinach and carrots outside.

### Zone 7:

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



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## Idaho's soil and how it affects agriculture:

Andisols soils are found in northern Idaho and contains volcanic ash and glass. This soil holds onto moisture and keeps phosphorous from benefiting the plants. Since phosphorous is important to cell growth in plants, raised beds with purchased soil may be necessary in these areas.

Vertisols are soils with high clay content and are found in only a few places in Idaho.

Mollisols are common in Idaho and often found in grasslands. These soils are fertile and excellent for crop growth.

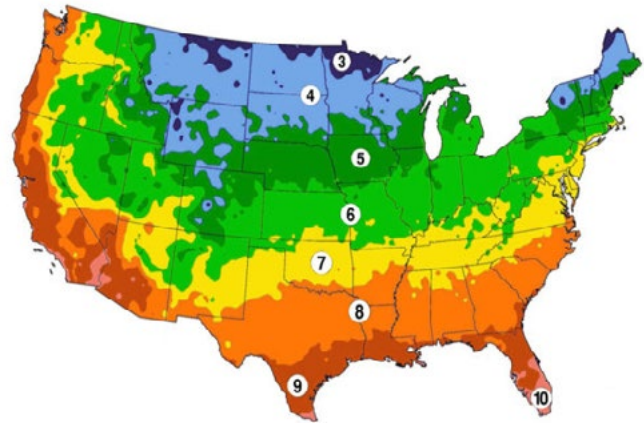
Alfisols are found in forests in Idaho, and these soils are fertile and excellent for crop growth.

Inceptisols are found in Idaho's mountain areas and is able to grow crops as well.

Entisols are found in rocky mountain areas throughout Idaho and also in river beds. These soils are able to be used for crop growth.

## Average rainfall in Idaho:

Rainfall will vary greatly depending on where the gardener resides in Idaho. In eastern Idaho, precipitation varies from 10.4 inches to 26.2 inches a year. For central Idaho, precipitation varies from 9.5 inches to 18 inches a year. In southwestern Idaho, precipitation varies from 7.6 inches to 25.7 inches a year.



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

In northern Idaho, precipitation varies from 12.3 inches to 38.4 inches a year.

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