

Plant families

Plants in the same family usually need similar growing conditions and are susceptible to similar pests. Don't plant members of the same family in the same place year after year. This will help prevent transmitting plant diseases and depleting the soil.

Planting date

When it's ok to plant seeds or transplants out in the garden in Southern Michigan (zone 5b)

Garden Planning Resources:

- www.growveg.com – extensive drag-and-drop garden planning service; fee
- www.gardeners.com – simple, free kitchen garden planter

Plant spacing

In a fertile bed, plant seeds or transplants this far apart in all directions.

Item	Family	Planting date	Spacing
Beans, bush (fresh or dried)	Legumes	Mid-May	6"
Beans, garbanzo (chickpeas)	Legumes	Late April, May	4"
Beans, pole (fresh or dried)	Legumes	Mid-May	6 seeds per pole; 12" betw. poles
Beets	Spinach kin	Late April	4"
Bok choy	Brassicas	May	12"
Broccoli	Brassicas	Late April	18"
Brussels Sprouts	Brassicas	Late April	18"
Cabbage	Brassicas	Late April	18"
Carrots	Carrot family	May	3"
Cauliflower	Brassicas	Late April	18"
Chard	Spinach kin	April, September	12"
Chives	Alliums	Late April	1 foot clumps
Collards	Brassicas	Late April	18"
Corn	Grasses	Late May	18"
Cucumbers	Curcubits (squashes)	Mid/late May	24", plus room to vine
Eggplant	Nightshades	Mid/late May	12"
Fennel	Carrot family	May	6"
Garlic	Alliums	October	4"
Goosefoot/lambsquarters	Spinach kin	(wild)	18"
Kale	Brassicas	Late April	18"
Leeks	Alliums	Late April	6"
Lettuce	Lettuces	April	9"
Melons	Curcubits (squashes)	Mid/late May	24", plus room to vine
Mustard greens	Brassicas	Late April	9"
Nappa cabbage	Brassicas	May	12"
Onions	Alliums	Late April	3"
Parsnips	Carrot family	May	4"
Peas	Legumes	Late April	3"
Peppers	Nightshades	Mid/late May	12"
Potatoes (white, not sweet)	Nightshades	Late April	9"
Pumpkins	Curcubits (squashes)	Mid/late May	24", plus room to vine
Quinoa	Spinach kin	May	12"
Rutabagas	Brassicas	Late April	6"
Shallots	Alliums	Late April	3"
Spinach	Spinach kin	April, October	6"
Squash, summer (zucchini, yellow, patty pan, etc.)	Curcubits (squashes)	Mid/late May	24", plus room to vine*
Squash, winter (acorn, butternut, etc.)	Curcubits (squashes)	Mid/late May	24", plus room to vine
Strawberries	Roses	Perennial	9"
Sweet potatoes	Morning glory	Late May	9"
Tomatoes	Nightshades	Mid/late May	24-36"
Turnips	Brassicas	Late April	3"
Wheat	Grasses	September	1"

* Many summer squashes come in "bush" varieties that don't vine. They need 24-36" between plants