

High-Desert Planting Calendar

A month-by-month guide for gardening at altitude in Arizona's high desert.

Month	What to do (high desert, ~6,000 ft)
Jan–Feb	Plan the garden and order seeds. Start onions and leeks indoors in late February.
March	Start tomatoes, peppers and herbs indoors. Prep and amend beds.
April	Direct-sow cool crops: lettuce, spinach, carrots, beets, chard, kale, peas, radish. Harden off seedlings. Watch for late frosts.
May	After your last hard frost (often late May), transplant tomatoes and peppers; sow beans, squash, cucumbers, melons and corn.
June	Mulch heavily and water deeply. Add shade cloth against the heat. Harvest cool crops before they bolt.
July	Monsoon season — watch storms. Sow a second round of beans and squash. Keep up the watering.
August	Start fall cool crops (lettuce, spinach, kale, broccoli starts, radish). Keep harvesting summer crops.
September	Harvest. Plant garlic late in the month. Have row cover ready for the first frosts.
October	First frosts arrive — cover tender crops and bring in the harvest. Clean up beds.
Nov–Dec	Let the garden rest. Build compost, protect perennials, and plan next season.