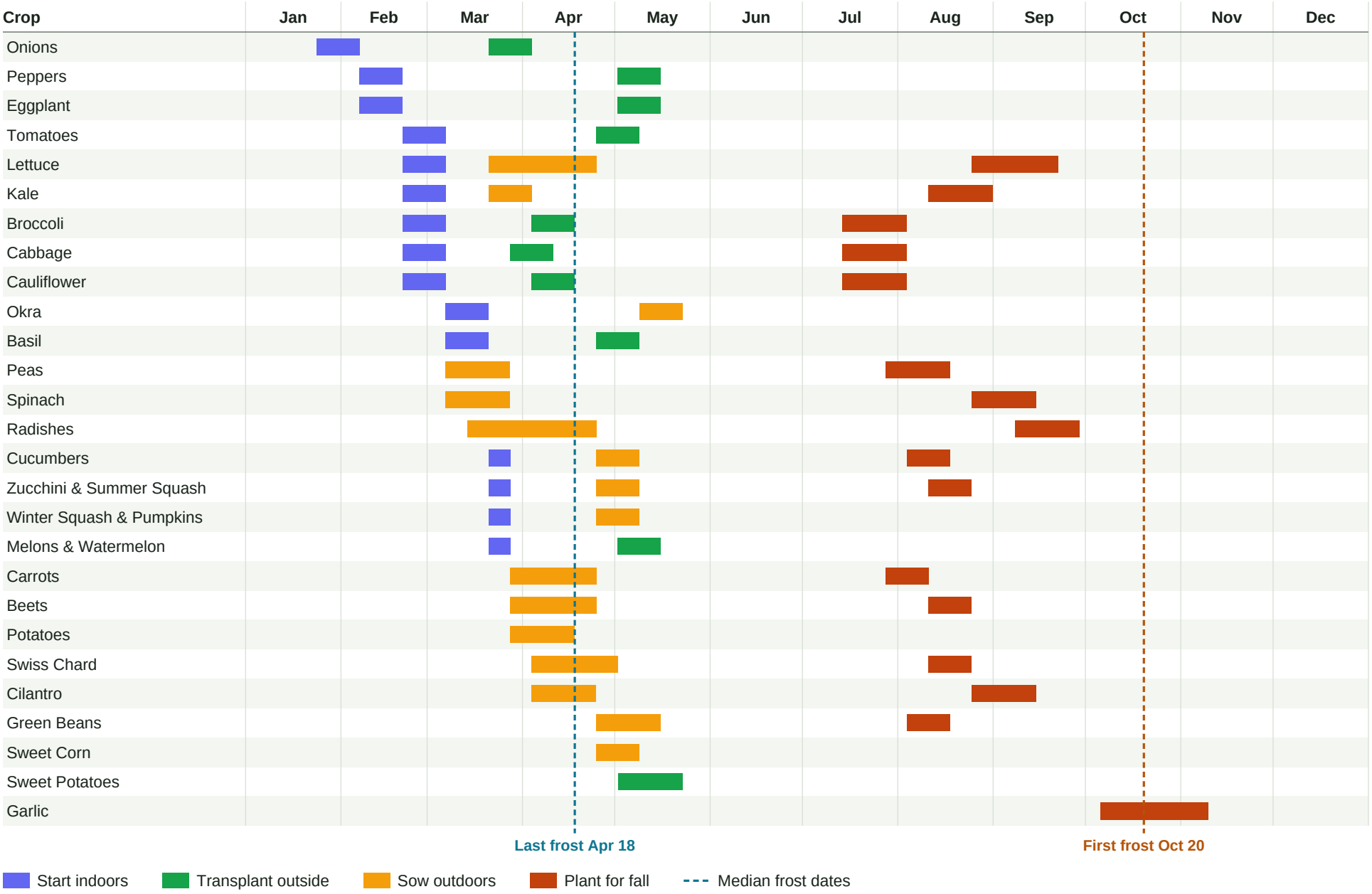
# Des Moines, IA planting calendar

Median last frost Apr 18 (10% chance of frost after May 2) · Median first frost Oct 20 · 185-day growing season · Zone 5b



# Des Moines, IA planting dates

Median last frost Apr 18 (10% chance of frost after May 2) · Median first frost Oct 20 · 185-day growing season · Zone 5b

| Crop | Start indoors | Transplant outside | Sow outdoors | Plant for fall |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Onions | Jan 24 – Feb 7 | Mar 21 – Apr 4 | — | — |
| Peppers | Feb 7 – Feb 21 | May 2 – May 16 | — | — |
| Eggplant | Feb 7 – Feb 21 | May 2 – May 16 | — | — |
| Tomatoes | Feb 21 – Mar 7 | Apr 25 – May 9 | — | — |
| Lettuce | Feb 21 – Mar 7 | Mar 28 – Apr 11 | Mar 21 – Apr 25 | Aug 25 – Sep 22 |
| Kale | Feb 21 – Mar 7 | Mar 21 – Apr 4 | Mar 21 – Apr 4 | Aug 11 – Sep 1 |
| Broccoli | Feb 21 – Mar 7 | Apr 4 – Apr 18 | — | Jul 14 – Aug 4 |
| Cabbage | Feb 21 – Mar 7 | Mar 28 – Apr 11 | — | Jul 14 – Aug 4 |
| Cauliflower | Feb 21 – Mar 7 | Apr 4 – Apr 18 | — | Jul 14 – Aug 4 |
| Okra | Mar 7 – Mar 21 | May 9 – May 23 | May 9 – May 23 | — |
| Basil | Mar 7 – Mar 21 | Apr 25 – May 9 | — | — |
| Peas | — | — | Mar 7 – Mar 28 | Jul 28 – Aug 18 |
| Spinach | — | — | Mar 7 – Mar 28 | Aug 25 – Sep 15 |
| Radishes | — | — | Mar 14 – Apr 25 | Sep 8 – Sep 29 |
| Cucumbers | Mar 21 – Mar 28 | May 2 – May 9 | Apr 25 – May 9 | Aug 4 – Aug 18 |
| Zucchini & Summer Squash | Mar 21 – Mar 28 | — | Apr 25 – May 9 | Aug 11 – Aug 25 |
| Winter Squash & Pumpkins | Mar 21 – Mar 28 | — | Apr 25 – May 9 | — |
| Melons & Watermelon | Mar 21 – Mar 28 | May 2 – May 16 | — | — |
| Carrots | — | — | Mar 28 – Apr 25 | Jul 28 – Aug 11 |
| Beets | — | — | Mar 28 – Apr 25 | Aug 11 – Aug 25 |
| Potatoes | — | — | Mar 28 – Apr 18 | — |
| Swiss Chard | — | — | Apr 4 – May 2 | Aug 11 – Aug 25 |
| Cilantro | — | — | Apr 4 – Apr 25 | Aug 25 – Sep 15 |
| Green Beans | — | — | Apr 25 – May 16 | Aug 4 – Aug 18 |
| Sweet Corn | — | — | Apr 25 – May 9 | — |
| Sweet Potatoes | — | May 2 – May 23 | — | — |
| Garlic | — | — | — | Oct 6 – Nov 10 |

Wait until after May 2 (only a 10% chance of frost) to plant out the most frost-tender crops: tomatoes, peppers, basil, melons.