

## Late-Fall Gardens for the Piedmont

With a mild climate and long growing season, Piedmont gardeners enjoy ample opportunities for fall vegetable gardens. While August is an ideal time to seed or transplant many fall vegetables, there is still time for planting some vegetables in September for a late fall harvest.

These vegetables can be **direct-seeded** in September:

Crop	Suggested sowing dates (outdoors)	Spacing between plants	Days to Maturity (approximate)
Beets	Aug 1 - Sept 15	2 inches	55 - 60
Lettuce (leaf)	Aug 1 - Sept 30	6 inches	40 - 50
Mustard	Aug 1 - Sept 15	2 inches	30 - 40
Radishes	Aug 1 - Sept 15	1 inch	25 - 30
Peas (garden)	Aug 1 - Sept 30	1 inch	65 - 70
Spinach	Aug 1 - Sept 30	6 inches	50 - 60
Turnips	Aug 1 - Sept 15	2 inches	55 - 60



These vegetables can be **transplanted** in September. Seeds should be started 5 - 8 weeks beforehand. It is *too late to direct-seed these crops in September*, as they may not mature before killing frosts.

Crop	Suggested sowing dates (indoors)	Suggested transplant dates	Spacing between plants	Days to Maturity (approximate)
Broccoli	June 15 - Aug 1	Aug 1 - Sept 15	18 inches	70 - 80
Cabbage	June 1 - July 15	Aug 1 - Sept 15	12 inches	70 - 80
Cauliflower	June 15 - Aug 15	Aug 1 - Sept 30	18 inches	55 - 65
Collards	May 15 - Aug 1	July 1 - Sept 15	18 inches	60 - 100
Kale	June 15 - Aug 1	Aug 1 - Sept 15	6 inches	40 - 50
Swiss Chard	June 15 - Aug 1	Aug 1 - Sept 15	6 inches	60 - 70

Many over-wintering cover crops can also be planted in fall to protect and enrich your soil for next year's veggies. Crimson clover can be planted through mid-September, and rye and hairy vetch can be planted through October. For more detailed information on cover crops, please visit <http://forsythcommunitygardening.com> and explore our Resources on "Building Healthy Soil."

**References (recommended for more detailed charts of planting dates and cultural practices):**

Bass, L., C. Mauney, and D. Morris. Home Vegetable Gardening: Variety Selection Quick Reference Guide for Forsyth County. NC Cooperative Extension -- Forsyth County Center. [http://www.forsythcommunitygardening.com/Documents/Vegetable\\_Planting\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.forsythcommunitygardening.com/Documents/Vegetable_Planting_Guide.pdf)

Driscoll, E. and C. Gunter. Vegetable Planting Guide for School Gardens in the Piedmont and Coastal Plain of North Carolina. North Carolina Cooperative Extension. <http://www.nccgp.org/resources/detail/school-garden-veggie-planting-guide-piedmont-coastal-plain>