Ashe County Indoor Seed Starting Guide



This document has been adapted from the growing guide found in the *North Carolina Extension Gardener Handbook* (2018). It was created as a resource for local growers in the Ashe County area, within USDA hardiness zones 6a & 6b. Currently, Ashe County's average Last Spring Frost date, conservatively, is May 15th, and the First Fall Frost date is October 1st.

<u>How to use this document</u>: Growers should find the crop they wish to grow and review the germination conditions for each. This information provides the optimal germination conditions a crop needs to be successful. More information on certain crop's nutrients, soil or cultural considerations can be found at plants.ces.ncsu.edu

Next, growers should look at the calendar portion of the chart to review when it is safe to start transplants. The indoor planting dates take into consideration factors such as the frost dates, germination conditions, and average growing rates for each crop. Growers should plan to start their crops within the calendar windows provided. For transplanting dates, please see the Ashe County Planting Guide. For more information or crop specific questions, please contact the NC Cooperative Extension, Ashe County Center at (336) 846-5850.

	Optii Tempe	num erature	Start time before last Frost		Jan	F	eb	M	ar	A	pr	M	ay	Jı	JN	J	ul	Αυς	- -
Vegetable	Day (°F)	Night (°F)	Weeks	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15
Asparagus	70–80	65–70	8																
Broccoli	60–70	50–60	8																
Brussels sprouts	60–70	50–60	8																
Cabbage	60–70	50–60	8																
Cauliflower	60–70	50–60	8																

	Optir Tempe	num rature	Start time before last Frost		Jan	F	eb	M	ar	A	pr	M	ay	Jı	ın	J	ul	Auç	3
Vegetable	Day (°F)	Night (°F)	Weeks	1	15		15		15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	4	15
Corn, sweet	70–75	60–65	4 or less		15		15		15	1	15		15	1	15	1	15		15
Cucumber	70–75	60–65	4 or less																
Eggplant	70–80	65–70	6–8																
Lettuce	55–65	50–55	8																
Muskmelon	70–75	60–65	4 or less																

	Optir Tempe	num rature	Start time before last Frost	J	Jan	F	eb	M	ar	A	pr	M	ay	Jı	ın	J	ul	Auç	9
Vegetable	Day (°F)	Night (°F)	Weeks	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15
Onion	60–65	55–60	10–12																
Pepper	65–75	60–65	6																
Summer squash	70–75	60–65	4 or les																
Tomato	65–75	60–65	6																
Watermelon	70–80	65–70	4 or less																

____= Last Frost Date on average;

= Seed starting window

Flowers	Approximate Time to Sow Before Last		-		-						-						
	Frost (weeks)	Já	an	F	eb	М	ar	Α	pr	M	ay	Jı	ın	J	ul		Aug
		1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15
Ageratum	8																
Alyssum	8																
Aster	6																
Balsam	6																
Begonia	10 or more																
Browallia	10 or more																
Celosia	8																

Flowers	Approximate Time to Sow Before Last																
	Frost (weeks)	Já	an	F	eb	М	ar	A	pr	M	ay	Jı	ın	J	ul		Aug
		1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15
Centaurea	6																
Coleus	8																
Cosmos	4 or less																
Dahlia	8																
Dianthus	10																
Geranium	10 or more																
Impatiens	10																

Flowers	Approximate Time to Sow Before Last																
	Frost (weeks)	Ja	an	F	eb	М	ar	A	pr	M	ay	Jı	ın	J	ul		Aug
		1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15
Larkspur	10 or more																
Marigold	6																
Nicotiana	8																
Pansy (Viola)	10 or more																
Petunia	10																
Phlox	8																
Portulaca	10																

Flowers	Approximate Time to Sow Before Last Frost (weeks)	Ja	an	Fe	eb	м	ar	A	or	Ma	av	Jı	ın	Ji	ul		Aug
		1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15
Snapdragon	10																
Verbena	10																
Vinca	10 or more																
Zinnia	6																

____= Last Frost Date on average;

= Seed starting window

Plant	Approximate Time to Sow Before Last Frost (weeks)	Time Seeds Take to Germinate (days)	Temperature (°F)	Light/Dark Requirement
Ageratum	8	5–10	70	Light
Alyssum	8	5–10	70	Either
Aster	6	5–10	70	Either
Balsam	6	5–10	70	Either
Begonia	12 or more	10–15	70	Light
Broccoli	8	5–10	70	Either
Browallia	12 or more	15–20	70	Light
Cabbage	8	5–10	70	Either
Cauliflower	8	5–10	70	Either
Celosia	8	5–10	70	Either
Centaurea	6	5–10	65	Dark
Coleus	8	5–10	65	Light
Cosmos	4 or less	5–10	70	Either
Cucumber	4 or less	5–10	85	Either
Dahlia	8	5–10	70	Either
Dianthus	10	5–10	70	Either
Eggplant	8	5–10	70	Either
Geranium	12 or more	10–20	70	Light
Impatiens	10	15–20	70	Light
Larkspur	12 or more	5–10	55	Dark
Lettuce	8	5–10	70	Light
Marigold	6	5–10	70	Either
Muskmelon	4 or less	5–10	85	Either
Nicotiana	8	10–15	70	Light
Pansy (Viola)	12 or more	5–10	65	Dark

Plant	Approximate Time to Sow Before Last Frost (weeks)	Time Seeds Take to Germinate (days)	Temperature (°F)	Light/Dark Requirement
Pepper	8	5–10	80	Either
Petunia	10	5–10	70	Light
Phlox	8	5–10	65	Dark
Portulaca	10	5–10	70	Dark
Snapdragon	10	5–10	65	Light
Squash	4 or less	5–10	85	Either
Tomato	6	5–10	80	Either
Verbena	10	15–20	65	Dark
Vinca	12 or more	10–15	70	Either
Watermelon	4 or less	5–10	85	Either
Zinnia	6	5–10	70	Either

For more information on gardening in North Carolina, see **<u>go.ncsu.edu/eg-handbook</u>** and **<u>gardening.ces.ncsu.edu</u>**.

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