

Planting tips for your garden in south-central Ontario, Canada:

- last hard frost is usually at or a bit after May 24 long weekend
- soil is workable late March-mid April depending on the year and snow load
- soil warms up in approximately mid-June

There are 4 main times to plant different seeds, either indoor or out. Seeds planted indoors need to be “hardened off” before being planted in the garden. This means the seedlings need to be slowly exposed to more outdoor conditions (temperature, wind, varying sunlight) over the course of a couple of weeks, so that they survive transplanting. Generally, start with an hour or so outside in a sheltered sunny spot, making sure they are adequately watered, and increase that time every day or two until the seedlings are out pretty much all day. Seeds started indoors usually do best when transplanted around the end of May / beginning of June.

The table below shows the 4 main planting combinations (time and location) and some common seeds to start in each.

<p>8-10 weeks before transplanting (plant seedlings outside late March)</p>	<p>As soon as the soil can be worked in spring (in the ground, early April)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - tomato - peppers - eggplant - celery - leeks - onion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - radish - turnips - parsnip - kale - carrots - Swiss chard - spinach
<p>4-6 weeks before transplanting (plant seedlings outside mid-late April)</p>	<p>Once the soil is warm (in the ground, early-mid June)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - cucumber - melons - pumpkins / winter squash - brassicas (broccoli, cauliflower, etc.) - rosemary - basil <p><i>Usually OK outdoors: peas, lettuce, beets</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - corn - beans - gourds - most flowers - parsley - potato