



Quick Vegetable Garden (for the Impatient Gardener!)

Many people think it takes a long time to grow vegetables, but that's not always the case. There are a lot of great vegetables that you can grow and harvest in as little as 30 to 60 days. A key to a successful quick garden is to pick the right crop types and select ones that have shorter "days to maturity" (which can be found on the seed packet).

Ready, Set, Grow! Here are 10+ crops that go from seed to harvest in less than 10 weeks.

1. **Arugula (40-50 days mature leaf, 20 days for baby greens).** Direct sow arugula in early spring as soon as the soil is workable, or in early fall for a fall harvest. Avoid planting during the heat of summer to prevent it from bolting. Sow every 2-3 weeks for a continuous harvest. *Recommended variety: Arugula Slow Bolt.*
2. **Beets (50 days, 35 days for baby greens).** Direct sow beets in early spring as soon as the soil is workable, and plant every 2 weeks through early July to have a continuous harvest from spring to fall. *Recommended variety: Early Wonder Tall Top produces abundant greens in addition to high yields of deep red roots.*
3. **Bush beans (50-55 days).** Direct sow two weeks after the last spring frost and plant new seeds every 2-3 weeks until early August for production throughout the summer and into fall. *Recommended variety: Purple Queen beans are tolerant of cooler temps and can be planted two weeks before most other varieties. Hardy and very productive.*
4. **Cucumber (60 days).** Select pickling varieties, which are more versatile than slicers—they are great fresh or pickled. Direct sow two weeks after the last spring frost. *Recommended variety: Wisconsin SMR-58 produces massive yields of exceptionally flavored, small cukes.*
5. **Kale (50 days, 25 days for baby greens).** Direct sow kale in early spring as soon as the soil is workable. Kale will provide a continuous supply of leaves if you pick from the bottom up. It is cold hardy and the flavors become sweeter and more complex after a frost. You can use a shade cloth during particularly hot weather to protect the crop. *Recommended varieties: Red Russian and White Russian.*
6. **Kohlrabi (55 days).** Direct sow kohlrabi from mid-April until early May. Sow again in mid-summer for a fall harvest. *Recommended varieties: Early White Vienna and Early Purple Vienna.*
7. **Leaf lettuce (50-60 days mature, 30 days baby greens).** Leaf lettuce varieties allow you to harvest the leaves slowly over time. Choose slow bolting varieties to allow for an extended harvest into the hotter summer months. Direct sow lettuce in early spring as soon as the soil is workable. For a continuous harvest, sow new seeds every 2-3 weeks through early summer, and start a new round in late summer for a fall crop. *Recommended varieties: Flame, Grand Rapids, Prizehead, Bronze Arrow, Four Seasons, and Black Seeded Simpson are all heat tolerant.*



Early Wonder Tall Top Beet



Leaf Lettuce Mixture

8. **Radish (21-28 days).** Radishes do best when grown in cooler conditions. Direct sow radish from April until early May, and again in August for a fall harvest. *Recommended variety: French Breakfast has a distinctive scarlet and white oblong shape. It is known for a mild, sweet flavor that is less peppery than other radishes, especially when harvested young.*
9. **Scallions (40-65 days).** Also known as bunching onions. *Recommended variety: White Lisbon is the earliest and most popular bunching onion for American gardeners that is also heat and cold tolerant.*
10. **Spinach (40 days mature, 25 days baby greens).** Direct sow spinach in early spring as soon as the soil is workable. For a continuous supply, plant seeds every 1-2 weeks until outdoor temperatures reach 80 degrees. For a fall crop, sow seeds 2 months before the average first frost date. Choose slow bolting varieties to allow for an extended harvest into the hotter summer months. *Recommended variety: Bloomsdale is a vigorous grower, frost-tolerant, and slow to bolt.*
11. **Sugar snap/snow peas (55 days).** Direct sow peas in early spring as soon as the soil is workable or in late July for a fall crop. *Recommended variety: Oregon Giant Sugar/Snow is very versatile: its large pods stay succulent up until peas are full size. Perfect fresh or cooked.*
12. **Swiss chard (55 days mature, 30 days baby greens).** Chard is a super green in the garden! Although it prefers cool temperatures as high temperatures slow down leaf production, it tolerates heat better than spinach does and rarely bolts like spinach will. Swiss chard grows well regardless of soil type, daylength or temperature. Direct sow in early spring as soon as the soil is workable through midsummer. *Recommended variety: Fordhook Giant produces massive amounts of tasty Swiss chard throughout the summer.*
13. **Turnips, Japanese aka salad turnips (50 days).** Plant turnips as soon as the soil is workable for a spring crop and again August 1 for a fall crop. In addition to the edible roots, the greens are also edible. *Recommended variety: Miyama is a mild, raw eating turnip with a superior flavor and texture, is crack-resistant, and has a rugged growth habit.*
14. **Squash (55 days).** Direct sow two weeks after the last spring frost and again in late July or early August for a fall crop. *Recommended variety: Cocozelle is an Italian bush type squash with long, cylindrical, dark green striped fruits. Keep picking them at a smaller size and they will just keep coming.*



Oregon Giant Snow Peas



French Breakfast Radish



Cocozelle Squash

Let's grow together, Door County!