

RUTGERS

New Jersey Agricultural
Experiment Station

Veggie Basics: Harvesting and End of Season Tasks

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Cooperative Extension of Mercer County



mercer.njaes.rutgers.edu/

4-H Youth Development

**Family and Community Health
Sciences**

**Agriculture and Natural
Resources**



Home, Lawn, and Garden



Garden Problems



Gardening with Youth



Nutrition and Wellness



Harvest, Cook, and Preserve



Insects, Pests, and Wildlife



Lawns and Landscapes

njaes.rutgers.edu/home-lawn-garden/

Our frost-free season is ending!

Trenton, NJ

- April 26 – **October 14** (32°F)
- April 12 – **October 25** (28°F)
- March 31 – **November 10** (24°F)



Johnny's Selected Seeds

Weather Observations at Rutgers Gardens



RU WX

DEP OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

OFFICE OF THE NJ CLIMATOLOGIST

GEOGRAPHY DEP



Select Monthly Report:

January

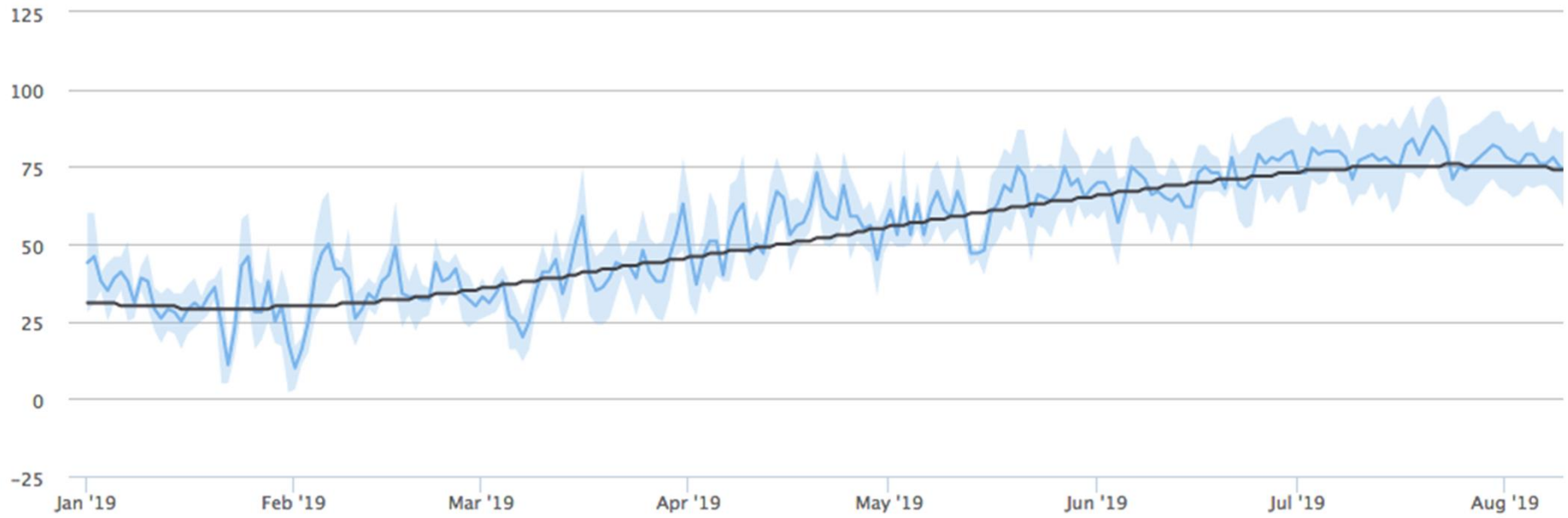


2019

[View Monthly Report](#)

[Click here to see the decadal trend!](#)

2019 Temperatures as Compared to Climatology (Zoommable)



○ Average Today ◊ Normal Temperature

- Pull unproductive, diseased, or damaged crops
- Plant hardy, fast-growing crops for fall harvest
- Harvest late summer crops
- Establish cover crops
- Care for your soil





Remove crops that are diseased, damaged,
or no longer producing

Bacterial blight



Powdery mildew



Late blight



Garlic rust



Clubroot disease



Imported cabbageworm



Striped cucumber beetles



Wireworm



Adult click beetle



Damage to romaine lettuce

Squash vine borer



Colorado potato beetle



Egg mass on
underside of leaf

Flea beetles



Semi-hardy crops (tolerate light frost)

Beets
Carrots
Parsnips
Cauliflower
Lettuce
Chard
Peas
Endive
Parsley
Celery

Hardy crops (tolerate heavy frost)

Leeks
Rutabaga
Broccoli
Kohlrabi
Kale
Cabbage
Brussels sprouts
Arugula
Radish
Mustard Greens

RUTGERS

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Huge, exhibition pumpkins, some over 300 lbs.
For largest fruit, leave only one per vine.



53837

burpee.com

Burpee Garden Products Co.
300 Park Ave., Warminster, PA 18974
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DEPTH: 1 in.
PROFUNDIDAD: 2,5 cm



THIN: 2-3 per group
SEMILLAS DELGADAS:
2 ó 3 por grupo



HARVEST: 120 days
COSECHA: 120 días

FOR PLANTING & CARE INSTRUCTIONS

videos and more, snap the colored code on the front with your smart phone after downloading the free app at <http://gettag.mobi> or enter the plant code on-line at lowes.com/plants Plant Code **LB22382** or visit burpee.com/more/53837

SOW in average soil in full sun in spring after all danger of frost. Sow 4-6 seeds about 3" apart in hills 4-6' apart. Cover with 1" of fine soil; firm lightly and keep evenly moist. Seedlings emerge in 7-14 days. Thin seedlings to 2-3 per hill when they are 1-2" high.

SIEMBRE en suelo regular a pleno sol en primavera una vez pasado totalmente el peligro de heladas. Siembre de 4 a 6 semillas cada 7,6 cm en montículos ubicados a una distancia 1,2 a 1,8 m. Cubra con una capa de 2,5 cm de tierra fina, afirme ligeramente y mantenga una humedad pareja. Las plántulas emergen entre los 7 a 14 días. Cuando las plántulas tengan entre 2,5 a 5,1 cm de alto, sepárelas de modo que queden entre 2 a 3 por montículo.



Direct Sow

- June / jun
- May-June / may-jun
- Apr-June / abr-jun
- Mar-May & July-Aug / mar-may y jul-ago



0 14 1530 53837 1 13

PACKED FOR 2012 SELL BY 11/12

ORIGIN USA

LOT 7

Days to maturity
+
"fall factor"



johnnyseeds.com

Carrot 'Scarlet Nantes': 70 days to maturity
Fall factor: 7 days

$$70 + 7 = 77$$

October 25th – 77 days = **August 9**

Cold-tolerant crops that mature quickly

Arugula

Lettuce

Radishes

Spinach

Mustard
Greens

Beets



Planting tips

- Soil hot for arugula, lettuce, and spinach: shade to cool and encourage germination
- Sow deeper than in spring (1/2" - 1")
- Grow and use transplants
- Water diligently when establishing
- Protect from cold snaps

Season extension and frost protection



wimastergardener.org

Floating row cover

Cold frames and low tunnels



Cold frames can be used for early spring, late fall, and winter growing

Row cover over metal or PVC hoops provide protected tunnel structure



Cloches for individual plants



High tunnels

Kathleen Moore, NCSU/Creative Commons



Greenhouse

Robert Brook, NCSU/Creative Commons



Planting and growing garlic

Hardneck (scapes) vs.
softneck (no scapes)

Plant 3-8 weeks before
frost:

1-2" deep, 3-6" apart

Mulch with 3-4" grass
clippings or straw



njaes.rutgers.edu



cgtrader.com

Fall harvest tips

Tomatoes

Pick green fruits before
killing frost, store in cool
conditions wrapped in
newspaper

OR

Pull up entire plants, hang
in garage or shed

Fruit will ripen in room-
temperature conditions



Potatoes

Harvest on dry day when vines start to die back (2 weeks after vines die if storing)

Dig tubers gently with spading fork

Store in newspaper or straw in cool, moist conditions for 6-8 months



Winter squash and pie pumpkins

Harvest before hard
freeze when skin feels
hard, stems and leaves
dying back.

Many varieties should be
cured in-field or indoors in
warm, dry location for 10-
14 days



gardenerspath.com



extension.unh.edu



Fall carrots and hardy leafy greens can be harvested into the cold season

Fall soil care

- Get a soil test!
- Keep it covered!
- Consider planting fall cover crops
- Minimize soil disturbance when wet

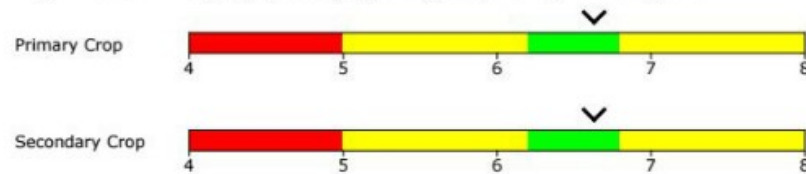




Soil testing

Results and Interpretations

pH: 6.63 Very slightly acidic; upper range of optimum pH for many plants.

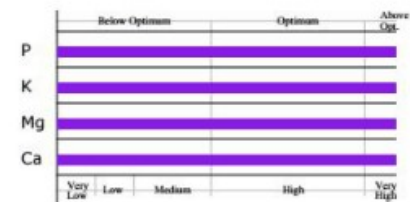


Lime Requirement Index: 7.72

The Lime Requirement Index (LRI) is a measure of the buffering capacity of the soil, its resistance to pH change, and is used to determine the appropriate amount of limestone, when necessary. LRI value near 8.0 indicates low buffering capacity of soil and a lower rate of limestone amendment compared to soil with high buffering capacity (LRI near 7.0).

Macronutrients (pounds per acre)

Phosphorus: 222 (Above Optimum)
Potassium: 463 (Above Optimum)
Magnesium: 957 (Above Optimum)
Calcium: 7375 (Above Optimum)



by Mehlich 3 extraction

Micronutrients (parts per million)

Zinc(Zn) 26.20 (Adequate) **Copper(Cu)** 4.26 (Adequate) **Manganese(Mn)** 56.49 (High) **Boron(B)** 3.85 (Adequate) **Iron(Fe)** 179.80 (High)

Mulch bare soil

- Apply 3-6" of organic mulch to all bare beds and fall crops
- Easy, effective mulch materials:
 - Shredded leaves
 - Lawn clippings (pesticide-free)
 - Clean straw



Mulch fall crops!



Establish fall cover crops

Grasses

Legumes

Roots



Grasses build organic matter and scavenge nutrients

fyi.extension.wisc.edu

waldeneffect.org

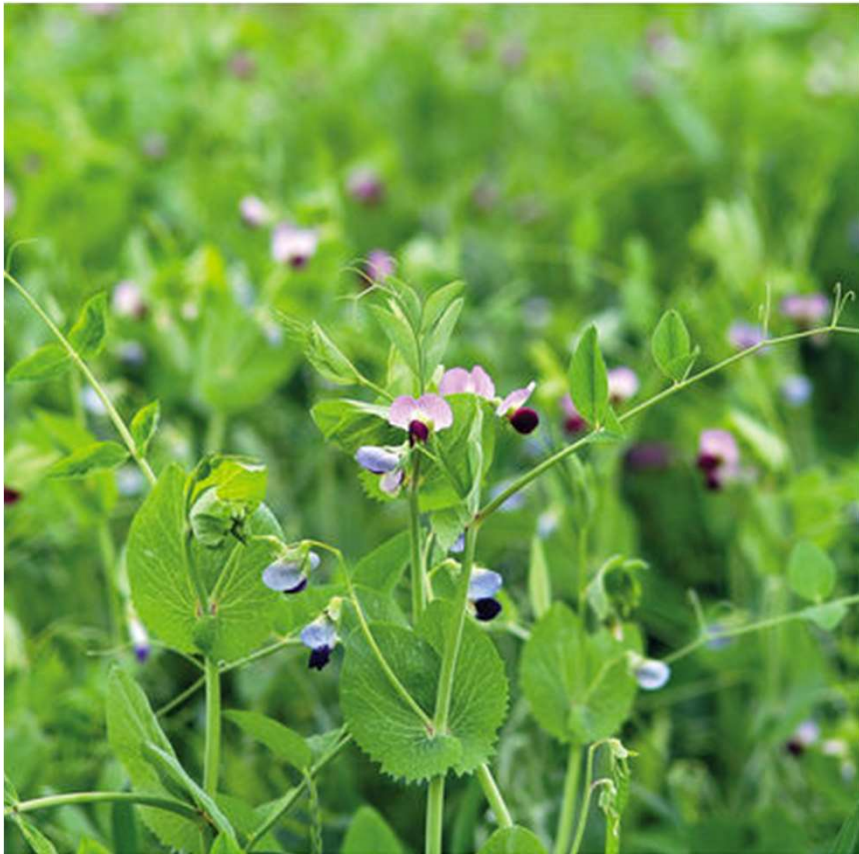


Winter rye



Oats

Legumes build nitrogen



Field pea



Crimson clover

Roots reduce soil compaction



Tillage radish

Cover crop cocktails



johnyseeds.com

Crimson clover, hairy
vetch, field pea,
winter rye

Cover crop management

- Sow by September 15
- Seeding rate based on seed type and variety
- Incorporate plants at least 2 weeks before spring planting

Table 1. Recommended cover crops and green manures for the home vegetable garden.*

Cover Crop	Sowing Time	Seeding Rate Per 100 sq. ft. (10' x 10' Garden)	Does This Plant Fix Nitrogen?	Growth Rate	Primary Uses/ Comments
Buckwheat	Spring, Summer	2 lb	No	Fast	Is easily worked into the soil. Attracts pollinators and beneficial insects. Re-seeds prolifically. DO NOT allow to go to seed.
Clover (Sweet)	Spring, Summer	½ lb	Yes	Medium	Grows better in high pH soils than other clovers.
Oats	Late Summer, Early Fall	4 lb	No	Medium	Likes well drained soils. Dies over the winter. Makes a good choice in areas to be worked early the following spring.
Peas (Field)	Spring, Early Fall	5 lb	Yes	Fast	Can outcompete many weeds.
Radish (Oilseed)	Fall	1 lb	No	Fast	Is easily worked into the soil.
Rye (Winter)	Fall	4 lb	No	Fast	Easy to grow. Grows fast. Can be planted late in the season.

Start preparing new planting beds now

Sheet mulching

Remove perennial
weeds from bed
area

Loosen soil with
spading fork

Base: 4-6 layers of
wet newspaper or
cardboard



Anne Donahue/OSU Extension

Start preparing new planting beds now

Sheet mulching

Top with manure or
grass clippings

Alternating, 1-inch
layers of carbon-rich
and nitrogen-rich
materials

Continue to layer
until 18-36" pile is
formed



Anne Donahue/OSU Extension

Start preparing new planting beds now

Sheet mulching

Always end with a
carbon-rich layer

Cover with burlap for
a neater look

Use black plastic tarp
to cover if pile gets
too wet



Anne Donahue/OSU Extension



Wendy Byar



Sterilize used pots, trays, and tools with bleach solution or alcohol before reusing (1 part bleach or alcohol to 9 parts water)

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Resources

- Rutgers Cooperative Extension's Home, Lawn, and Garden homepage: <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/home-lawn-garden/>
- Rutgers Master Gardeners of Mercer County: <https://mgofmc.org/>
- *Season Extenders and Growing Fall Vegetables*, Penn State Extension
- *Protect and Improve Your Soil with Cover Crops*, University of Maryland Extension
- *Growing Garlic in the Home Garden*, Rutgers Cooperative Extension
- *Saving Vegetable Seeds*, University of Minnesota Extension

Upcoming programs

'Fall Gardening Skills with Rutgers Cooperative
Extension'

Taught on Zoom by Margaret Pickoff for Princeton Adult
School

October 13, 20, and 27 at 7:00pm

'The Pollinator Victory Garden: How To Win The War on
Pollinator Decline'

Zoom presentation by Kim Eierman

October 14 at 7:00pm

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