

ESOL Through Gardening - First Literacy - May 5, 2017

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Reading 1:

It's important to plant your garden seeds at the right time, and the key is knowing when your area will see its last spring frost. Some crops thrive in cool weather, while others only grow well when it's warmer. So how do you know when to plant what? Find out your **average last spring frost date**. Most cool season crops, like cabbage, broccoli, lettuce and many others, can tolerate a light frost and will grow best when sown a couple weeks before your last spring frost. But warm season crops like squash, cucumber and basil will be killed by frost if your seeds come up too soon. This is also true for warm season transplants such as tomatoes, peppers and eggplants — if you don't wait until the danger of frost has passed before you plant them, a late frost will kill them.

From: <http://www.motherearthnews.com/organic-gardening/garden-planning/how-to-find-average-last-spring-frost-date.aspx>

Reading 2:

Vegetables, especially vegetables like tomatoes and cucumbers, should get at least 6 hours of sun every day. If you don't have a sunny place for your garden, you should grow leafy vegetables like lettuce and spinach. Leafy vegetables only need 3 to 4 hours of sun a day. Root vegetables such as carrots and potatoes need more light, 4 to 6 hours a day, to grow.

<http://www.theheartofnewengland.com/garden/planning-vegetable-garden.html>

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