

Column Name- The Heartland Minute

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*“Utilizing a Planting Calendar to Organize Seed Transplants”*

Starting your vegetable seeds indoors to prepare for a spring garden is common, but to get it right, it is often best to utilize a planting calendar. To do this, KSU horticulture expert, Ward Upham, suggests choosing your transplant date and count back the number of weeks necessary to grow your own transplants. Take for example, that cabbage, broccoli, and cauliflower are usually transplanted in late March to early April. It takes approximately eight weeks to grow from seed to transplant size. So, they can be started toward the end of January to the beginning of February

Below are a list of plants and how many weeks from seed start to transplant is recommended:

**4 or less weeks** – Cosmos, Cucumber, Muskmelon, Squash, and Watermelon

**6 weeks** – Aster, Balsam, Centuria, Marigold, and Tomato

**8 weeks** – Ageratum, Alyssum, Broccoli, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Celosia, Coleus, Dahlia, Eggplant, Lettuce, Nicotiana, Pepper, and Phlox

**10 weeks** – Dianthus, Impatiens, Petunia, Portulaca, Snapdragon, Stock, and Verbena

**12 or more weeks** – Begonia, Browallia, Geranium, Larkspur, Pansy, and Vinca

These dates are not set in stone, and a week earlier or later will not ruin the plants. We may consider seeding a week or two earlier being in southern Kansas. When you create your calendar, you can reuse it every year, with a minor reset of the dates. You should keep notes on how well the transplants did so you can tweak the planting schedule.

Are you looking for a helpful guide to vegetable yields, plant information, recommended times for planting, and common garden problems? Then check out the K-State Research and Extension publication, MF315 Vegetable Garden Planting Guide. We can help you find it at the Extension Office.

Information comes from K-State University horticulture expert Ward Upham.

For more information regarding upcoming programs, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 4-H Youth Development, or K-State Research and Extension call the office at 620-583-7455, email me, Ben Sims, at [benjam63@ksu.edu](mailto:benjam63@ksu.edu), or stop by the office which is located inside the courthouse. Be sure to follow K-State Research and Extension- Greenwood County on Facebook for the most up-to-date information on Extension education programs and the Greenwood County 4-H program. K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.