

Grant Dowdell and Karen Digby's Seed Guide

Grant Dowdell and Karen Digby have generously shared this handout which is based on Grant's 40 years of experience of local commercial vegetable farming on "Grant's Island", Yukon River, Dawson, Yukon

Thank you Grant and Karen!

Best Cultivars (seed varieties) Planting Schedule Harvesting Schedule

Dawson City Yukon is comprised of a large variety of microclimates (for example: Henderson Corner, Rock Creek, Bear Creek, Dome Subdivision, Dawson City, West Dawson, Sunnydale). Grant's Island is a microclimate of its own; being surrounded by water often means fewer frost days.

What grows well in one microclimate does not necessarily grow well in all.

Most of the seed varieties in this handout can be ordered from William Dam Seeds <http://www.damseeds.ca>

Some of the seed varieties in this handout are available at:

T&T Seeds <http://www.ttseeds.com>

Veseys <http://www.veseys.com/ca/en/>

West Coast Seeds <https://www.westcoastseeds.com>

Stokes <http://www.stokeseeds.com/>

The following handout was originally written by Karen Digby and Grant Dowdell in 2014 for a Vegetable Planting Course by Karen Digby at Yukon College

Tr'odëk Hätr'unohtän Zho

Dawson Community Campus

It was updated for 2016 by Grant Dowdell

Permission to share the handout granted by Grant Dowdell, Karen Digby and Yukon College, Dawson Community Campus

RECOMMENDED CULTIVARS

- *Cultivar*: a cultivated plant variety produced by selective breeding.
- These varieties have been successful for us.
- Crop breeders continually work to improve varieties: if a variety you are looking for is no longer offered, look for its “replacement”.

Beans, bush	Strike
Beans, climbing	Emerite, Scarlet Runner
Beets, round	Kestrel
Beets, long	Cylindra
Broccoli	Everest (replaces Windsor), Arcadia, Packman
Brussels Sprouts	Jade Cross, Oliver
Cabbage, green	Stonehead
Cabbage, red	Primero
Cabbage, storage	Reaction
Carrots, early season	Napoli
Carrots, main season	Touchon Deluxe
Cauliflower	Fremont, Minuteman
Celery	Tango
Corn	EarliVee (the only variety to mature, is reliable)
Cucumber	Raider
Fennel, bulb	Orion
Kale	Darkibor
Leek	Jolant
Lettuce, green leaf	Two Star
Lettuce, red leaf	Red Express
Lettuce, romaine	Green Forest
Lettuce, head	Summertime
Onion, white/yellow	Expression (can also be used as a storage onion)
Onion, red	Red Label
Onion, shallot, white	Ambition
Onion, shallot, red	Camelot
Onion, green	Summer Isle
Peas	Aladdin
Potato, early red	Norland
Potato, main season white	Kennebec
Potato, main season russet	Norkota
Potato, main season purple skin	Purple Chief (very high yielder for us)
Pumpkin, pie	Jack Sprat
Pumpkin, mid-size	Racer
Pumpkin, large	Aspen
Radicchio	Indigo
Squash	Burgess Buttercup, Golden Hubbard
Tomato, indeterminate (staking)	Early Girl (good yielder for outdoor growing)
Zucchini, green	Partenon
Zucchini, yellow	Golden Dawn

RECOMMENDED CROP SEEDING DATES for field-grown crops

1. **Direct-Seeded Crops** (seed or tubers sown directly into garden soil)

- Sow seed as soon as ground is workable, mid-May to late May.

Beets

Carrots can make later sowings for young carrots in late season

Parsnip

Potatoes can make later sowings between late May and mid-June

2. **Crops grown from transplants** (seeds are planted in cells then the young plants transplanted into the garden soil)

a) Long-season Crops with single seeding dates

- Transplant seedlings into garden June 1 or when soil is workable and frost danger is past.

Beans, bush & runner

5/14

Celery

2/23, can do second planting 3/15

Corn

5/1

Cucumbers

5/1

Onion family (frost-hardy, may be transplanted one week earlier, in late May)

Onions, White & Red

4/10

Onions, Storage

4/10

Shallots

4/10

Leeks

2/25

Squash family

Zucchini, Green & Yellow

5/1

Pie pumpkins

5/1

Pumpkins, mid-size & large

5/1

Winter squash

5/1

Tomatoes

3/1 or later, plants are “potted on” and can be planted out once they start to flower

b) Succession-planted Crops

- These crops mature fairly rapidly, repeat sowings are necessary to ensure continuous supply
- multiple seeding dates, seedlings are transplanted into garden at intervals

Lettuce transplant date 5 weeks after seeding

Leaf, green & red 4/12, 4/19, 4/26, 5/2, 5/8, 5/14, 5/19, 5/24, 5/29, 6/3, 6/8, 6/13, 6/17, 6/21, 6/25, 6/29, 7/3, 7/7

Romaine 4/6, 4/12, 4/19, 4/26, 5/2, 5/8, 5/14, 5/19, 5/24, 5/29, 6/3, 6/8, 6/13, 6/17

Head 4/6, 4/16, 4/25, 5/2, 5/8, 5/16, 5/22, 5/28

Radicchio 4/6, 4/19, 5/2

Brassicas transplant date 5 weeks after seeding

Cabbage, Green 4/6, 4/16, 4/25, 5/2, 5/9, 5/16, 5/22

Cabbage, Red 4/6, 4/16, 4/25, 5/2, 5/9, 5/16

Cabbage, Storage 4/6

Cauliflower 4/6, 4/16, 4/25, 5/2, 5/9, 5/16, 5/22

Broccoli 4/6, 4/16, 4/25, 5/2, 5/9, 5/16, 5/22

Romanesco 4/6, 4/16, 4/25, 5/2, 5/9, 5/16, 5/22

Brussels Sprouts 4/6

Kale 4/6 can have further dates if young plants wanted

Other transplant date 5 weeks after seeding

Fennel 4/6, 4/16, 4/25, 5/2, 5/9, 5/16, 5/22

Green onions 4/10, 4/17, 4/24, 5/1

CROP AVAILABILITY: field-grown crops

- This chart is based on several years of sales records from our market garden
- This chart starts in July. Leaf lettuce is full-size by June 24 and can be harvested earlier for tender young greens
- “x” means crop is reliably available, “?” means crop may be available
- Season end dates for frost-sensitive crops are dependent on when the first hard frost occurs

Crop	7/17	7/24	7/31	8/7	8/14	8/21	8/28	9/4	9/11	9/18
Kale	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Green cabbage	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Leaf lettuce	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	?	?
Romaine lettuce	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	?	?
Zucchini	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	?	?	?
Head lettuce	x	x	x	x	x	x	?	?		
Broccoli	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
Fennel	x	x	x	x	x	x	?			
Beets	?	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Romanesco		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	?
Red cabbage		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	?
Green beans		x	x	x	x					
Cauliflower		?	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	?
Celery			x	x	x	x	x	x	?	
Carrots		?	?	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Brussels sprouts				x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Onions			?	?	x	x	x	x	x	x
Leeks					x	x	x	x	x	x
Potatoes				?	?	x	x	x	x	x
Squash					?	x	x	x	x	x
Pie pumpkins						?	x	x	x	x
Mid-size pumpkins						?	x	x	x	x
Large pumpkins						?	x	x	x	x
Garlic							x	x	x	x
Corn							?	?	x	?
Parsnips									x	x
Tomatoes: no record for field-grown										
Cucumbers: no record for field-grown										