

Listing of Average First and Last Frost dates in Pacific and Grays Harbor County
(Prepared from NOAA and WSU data)

TOWN	AVG. First Frost	AVG. Last Frost	AVG. Growing days	Hardiness Zone
Elma	October 12	May 6	159	8
McCleary	October 12	May 6	159	8
Oakville	October 12	May 6	159	8
Copolis Crossing	October 12	May 2	163	8
Moclips	October 12	May 2	163	9
Ocean Shores	October 12	May 2	163	9
Taholah	October 12	May 2	163	9
Aberdeen	October 21	April 30	174	9
Brady	October 21	April 30	174	9
Hoquiam	October 21	April 30	174	9
Cosmopolis	October 21	April 30	174	8
Westport	October 31	April 14	200	8
Grayland	October 31	April 14	200	8
Tokeland	October 31	April 14	200	8
Humtulpis	October 31	April 14	200	8
Menlo	October 31	April 14	200	8
Montesano	October 31	April 14	200	8
Bay Center	October 31	April 14	200	8
Long Beach	October 31	April 14	200	8
Oysterville	October 31	April 14	200	8
Illwaco	October 31	April 14	200	8

Note: Many *flower bulbs* must be planted in the fall in order to use the cold soil temperatures to grow and flower in the spring. If you forget to plant some of your bulbs you can put the bag in the refrigerator until spring for planting. You can also “force” a bulb to flower in the winter for color in January or December. Bulbs are versatile and fun to have in your gardening repertoire.

Wildflower seeds may be scattered in the Fall or Early Spring. To plant your Wildflower seeds, or Pollinator seeds, select a well-drained soil area, rake, then scatter seeds. However do not think perfection think instead wildflower propagation (without human help). Wildflowers multiply without rakes, compost, and perfect soil conditions. Do read your wildflower seed package for zone numbers and any additional directions.

Who knew? You can buy a soil thermometer to check soil temperatures in your area throughout the year (don’t forget to record them in your Gardening Journal or Calendar). Don’t have a soil thermometer then how about your cooking thermometer (must be able to read temperatures 60 F. and below). A cooking Thermometer: can help you in the spring to determine which vegetables can be planted or it is time to plant the day lily bulbs.

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Plant most flowering bulbs (Tulips, hyacinths, Iris, Allium, crocosmia, daffodils, snow drops, crocus, in the fall (September, October, November) in zones 8-10. Plant Day Lilies, gladiolas, dahlias Bulbs in the spring in zones 8-10. Once planted all flowering bulb plants can winter over the following season (you don't need to dig them up in zones 8-10). However, please remember you know your yard and planting area the best. If you know that you have colder ground and more frost than most areas in your zone you may need to dig dahlias in the fall.

You can plant many bulbs in a small space or container. The one thing to remember is not to have the bulbs touching each other. For depth of planting you use the size of the bulb times 3. For example you could plant the larger bulbs (tulips, daffodils) deeper and then at a shallow level plant your blue bells, grape hyacinth, or crocus.

Bulbs to plant for continuous color Spring to Fall:

Fall Plant: Tulips, Daffodils, Crocosmia, Hyacinth, Allium, Snow Drops, Iris, Crocus, etc. (read your box to determine zone and planting months).

Early Spring Plant: Dahlias, Day Lilies, Gladiolis, Always select bulbs that are appropriate for you zone).

Quick Planting Checklist (*WSU extension, OSU extension, and Dutch Bulbs*)

- Planting bulbs should be firm and selected for our growing area. Bulbs should also not have any lesions.
- Buy the variety for our zone: Between 8-9 growing zone for Grays and Pacific County.
- Turn your soil over to a depth of 6-8 inches. 4inches for the smaller varieties.
- Use eggshells around your planted bulbs to deter snails. Use a mesh over the top of the planted bulbs if you think something might eat them.
- Try planting in containers. In our climate, containers can work great for all spring bulbs. Then you can move them around for color.
- Would you like color around the holidays? You can plant bulbs in a container in November, bring them inside mid-November or Thanksgiving, and you should have color by the end of December. I did this in Barrow, AK. to brighten up Classrooms in the month of January.

Planting Guidance:

1. Go to WSU Extension <https://extension.wsu.edu/> and type in "Bulb Basics"
2. Go to OSU Extension <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/> (Bulb planting guidelines)
3. How many flower bulbs to plant: Dutchgrown.com
4. Dutchbulbs.com (Plant spacing calculator)

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