

# When to Harvest

<b>Asparagus</b>	Cut when spears are 9" (23 cm) long; width is not a maturity indicator.
<b>Basil</b>	Sufficient size, before flowering and before night temperatures drop to below 50°F (10°C).
<b>Beans (green)</b>	Pods are filled but not bulging, seeds are immature.
<b>Beans (haricot vert)</b>	Very thin, over-mature if they snap when bent.
<b>Beets</b>	Adequate size, highest quality beets are less than 2" (5 cm)
<b>Brussels Sprouts</b>	Buds that are 1" to 2" in diameter.
<b>Cabbage</b>	Firm head.
<b>Cantaloupe</b>	3/4 to full slip (abscission from vine) under slight pressure.
<b>Carrots</b>	When roots have reached adequate size, have uniform taper.
<b>Cauliflower</b>	Mature curds at least 6" in diameter, compact.
<b>Celery</b>	90 to 120 days after transplanting.
<b>Chard (Swiss)</b>	Adequate size of large, outer leaves (cut and come again).
<b>Corn (Sweet)</b>	Silks dried, kernels immature, "milky" when squeezed, tight, green husk.
<b>Cucumber/ Gherkin</b>	Immature, glossy skin, 55 to 60 days from flowering, before seeds fully mature.
<b>Eggplant</b>	Immature, glossy skin, 40 days from flowering, before seeds fully mature.

<b>Garlic</b>	Well-filled bulbs, tops dry down, undercut bulbs and cure.
<b>Leeks</b>	Diameter from 3/4" to 2" (5 cm).
<b>Lettuce (bib, romaine)</b>	Adequate size, 60 to 70 days.
<b>Lettuce (head)</b>	Compact head, not too firm.
<b>Lettuce (leaf)</b>	Adequate size leaves, 50 to 60 days.
<b>Melon (honeydew)</b>	Ground color change to white with greenish tint, slightly waxy peel.
<b>Okra</b>	4 to 7 days after flower has opened (pods 2 to 4" long), not fibrous, tips of pods pliable.
<b>Onion (green)</b>	Minimum 6" tall, mean diameter 1/4 to 1/2 inch at base of immature bulb.
<b>Onion (dry bulbs)</b>	When 10-20% of tops fall over (withhold irrigation, undercut and cure).
<b>Peaches</b>	Ground color change from green to yellow (varies by cultivar).
<b>Peas (edible pod)</b>	5 to 7 days after flowering, pods slim, immature and very small.
<b>Peas (green)</b>	Pods well filled but not faded in color.
<b>Peppers</b>	Fruit size and color (depends on cultivar and intended market).
<b>Potatoes (early late)</b>	When desirable size has been reached for the cultivar and intended market harvest before vines die completely cure to heal surface wounds.

<b>Radish (spring)</b>	20 to 30 days after planting.
<b>Radish (winter)</b>	45 to 70 days after planting.
<b>Shallots</b>	When tops dry down.
<b>Spinach</b>	Adequate size (35-45 days after planting), young or mid-maturity, or cut outer leaves and come again in 3-4 weeks.
<b>Squash (summer)</b>	Immature, glossy skin, 45-60 days from flowering, before seeds mature.
<b>Squash (winter)</b>	Rind hard, before hard frost.

<b>Strawberries</b>	Minimum standards: 2/3 of berry surface showing pink or red color.
<b>Sweet potatoes</b>	Adequate size of roots, before first frost.
<b>Tomatoes</b>	Seeds fully developed, gel formation advanced in at least one locule (seeds cut when fruit is sliced). Color depends on variety.
<b>Turnips</b>	Adequate size, before weather warms.
<b>Watermelon</b>	Ground spot change from white to creamy yellow.

Sources: U.S. Standards for Grades, California Food & Agriculture Code, U.C. Davis Postharvest Outreach Program publications.

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