

While much of the rest of the country is still buried under a blanket of snow, Central Texas is emerging from the coldest days of winter.

This is the ideal time to plant cool season vegetables, before the hot summer sun makes conditions too unpleasant for these tenderer vegetables. Though some areas may still see frost at night in February, gardeners can plant many vegetables to harvest in April and May.

Plant broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage and cauliflower now in the DWF area. For best results, set transplants about 1 foot apart. Protect very young tender plants from freezes with cold caps or garden fabric designed to shield plants from frost. Once the plants are established they will stand up to light frost. Warm days will cause the plants to bolt and flower.

Root Vegetables

Sow seeds for beets, carrots, radish and turnips by the last week in February. Sow seed 3 inches apart and thin to 6 inches apart by removing smaller seedlings. This will encourage development of larger roots. Root vegetables with organic soil and lava sand.

Greens

Chard, collards, kale, lettuce, mustard and spinach can all be direct-sown with seed in February in Central Texas. Water the seed well and thin as sprouts emerge. These sprouts are edible. When heat and sun intensify in spring, extend the life of the crop by shielding it with shade cloth, but summer's heat will cause these plants to go to seed. We stock quite a few varieties; 1015, Texas Grano, Walla Walla, Candy, Red Candy, Crystal Wax White, Texas Early White, Texas Legend, Granex Yellow, Red Creole and Red Burgundy.

Onions

Plant onions in the garden in now. Harvest green onions at any stage and bulbing onions after the tops yellow and die back.

Now is the time to plant potatoes, onions, asparagus, lettuce, cabbage, broccoli, swiss chard, kale, onions, potatoes, and brussel sprouts.

