



# High Tunnel Crop Varieties

*in Alaska*



## The Basics

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides free, voluntary technical assistance and financial assistance to help Alaskans install seasonal high tunnels. High Tunnels, also known as hoop houses, are structures typically built with a metal frame covered with plastic. They come in various sizes and styles. They create a micro-climate that raises the temperature, and they protect crops from potentially damaging weather such as frost, wind and heavy rain.














Crops grown in a high tunnel tend to be of higher quality and produce higher yields than crops grown outdoors in Alaska. High tunnels also support a wider diversity of crop types that require warmer growing temperatures, such as tomatoes and peppers. This publication includes a list of commonly grown crops in Alaska high tunnels. The days to maturity are calculated from the date of transplanting into the high tunnel. A general rule is to add 25 to 35 days if direct-seeding in a high tunnel.













## Help Us Build This List!

NRCS is interested in your feedback. Which crop varieties have you tried in your high tunnel? Which ones grew well, or did not grow so well? We want to hear from you. Contact your local NRCS conservation planner at your local field office. Special thanks to the vegetable growers from UAF Cooperative Extension and communities across Southeast Alaska who graciously provided their insight to start this compilation.



CROP TYPE	VARIETY	COLOR	DAYS TO MATURITY	USDA ZONE
<b>APPLE</b> 	Yellow Transparent	Pale Yellow	70-140	3-8
<b>BEANS</b> 	Provider (bush)	Green	50	3-8
	Prevail (bush)	Green	55	2-8
	Rocdor (bush)	Yellow	55	3-8
	Scarlett Runner (pole)	Green	80	7-8
	Fortex (pole)	Green	60-70	8
	Kentucky Wonder Yellow (pole)	Yellow	59	3-8
<b>BEETS</b> 	Bulls Blood	Red	55	2-8
<b>BROCCOLI</b> 	Belstar	Blue-green	66-75	3-8
	Waltham 29	Blue-green	80-85	3-8
<b>CABBAGE</b> 	Early Jersey Wakefield	Green	60-75	3-8
	Ruby Ball	Red	72-78	3-8
<b>CARROTS</b> 	Scarlet Nantes	Orange	65-75	4-8
	Sugarsnax	Orange	68	3-8
	Napoli	Orange	60	5
<b>CAULIFLOWER</b> 	Early Snowball	White	55	6-8
	Snow Crown	White	50-60	3-8
<b>CELERY</b> 	Utah 52-70	Green stalk	100-120	2-8
<b>CUCUMBER</b> 	Excelsior	Dark green	50	5-8
	Marketmore (76)	Dark green	58-68	5-8
	Socrates	Dark green	52	3-8
	Telegraph Improved	Dark green	60	4-8
<b>GARLIC (HARDNECK)</b> 	Chesnok Red	Purple stripe	~321	3-8
	Killarney Red	Purpleish-red	~328	5-8
	Music	White to off-white	~328	3-8
	Purple Glazer	Glazed purple stripe	~321	3-8
	Siberian	Marbled purple stripe	~314	3-8
<b>GREENS</b> 	French Sorrel	Green	60	4-8
<b>KALE</b> 	Red Russian	Green lobed, purple stem	50	2-5
<b>LETTUCE</b> 	Buttercrunch	Green	75	2-8
	Marshall	Dark red leaves	65	4-8
	Red Sails	Green to dark red leaves	45	3-8
	Winter Density	Green	54	3-8

Suggested sowing dates and whether to start seeds indoors early or direct sow outdoors are located at the following website: <https://www.almanac.com/gardening/planting-calendar>

CROP TYPE	VARIETY	COLOR	DAYS TO MATURITY	USDA ZONE
<b>PARSNIP</b> 	Andover	Cream to orange root	120	2-8
	Hollow Crown Improved	White	95	3-8
<b>PEAS</b> 	Sugar Snap	Green	62	3-8
<b>PEPPERS</b> 	Bell, Mini red and purple (Red Skins)	Red/Purple	60	7-8
	Early Jalapeno	Green/red	66	4-8
	Hungarian Hot Wax	Yellow	58	3-8
<b>RADISH</b> 	French Breakfast	Red with white tip	20-25	3-8
<b>SHALLOTS</b> 	Yellow Shallot	Yellow	90-100	3-8
<b>SPINACH</b> 	Bloomsdale Longstanding	Dark green leaves	40-48	3-8
	Giant Winter	Dark green leaves	45	2-8
	Tyee	Dark green leaves	37-53	5-8
<b>SQUASH-ZUCCHINI</b> 	Cavili	Lime with white ribs	48	3-8
	Partenon	Green	48	3-8
<b>SWISS CHARD</b> 	Bright Lights (Rainbow)	Mixed colors	55	2-8
<b>TOMATO</b> 	Early Girl (New Girl) (ind)*	Red	50	3-8
	Glacier (det)**	Medium, red	54	3-8
	Sungold (ind)	Cherry, orange	55-65	2-8
<b>TURNIPS/RUTABAGA</b> 	Hakurei	White to cream	38	3-8
	Purple Top White Globe	Purple Top White Globe	50	3-8

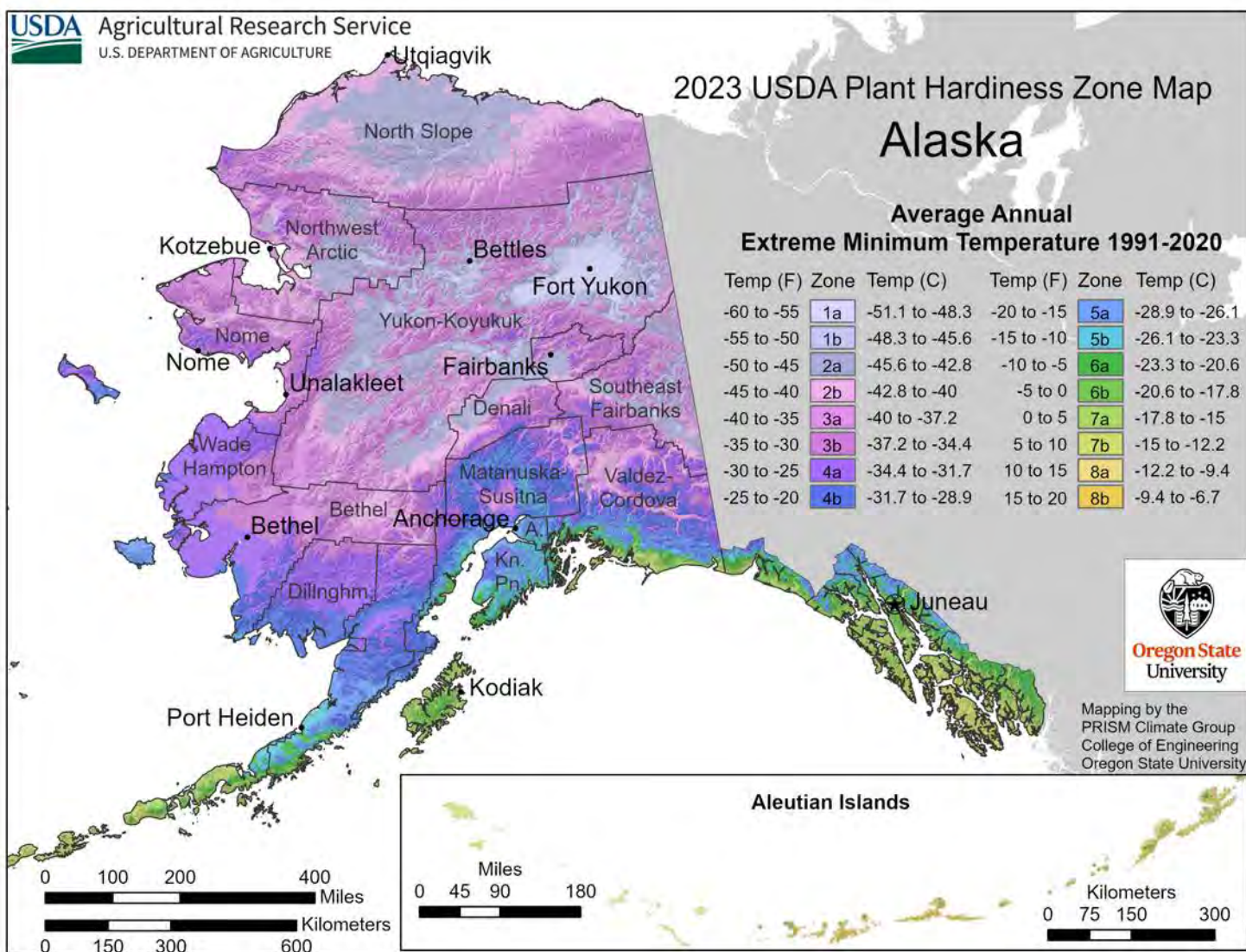
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\* ind = Indeterminant **tomatoes** ripen throughout the growing season;

\*\* det = determinant tomatoes usually all ripen at once







## Contacts and Resources



USDA Service Center  
Locator



NRCS Alaska  
website



Suggested Sowing  
Dates Searchable by  
Zip Code. *External  
Source: Almanac*



University of Alaska  
Cooperative Extension  
Service Seed Starting and  
Transplanting Publication