

PART 2 · TIMING

The homestead year

Every project has a season when it's easiest, cheapest, or only possible then. Start your 90 days from today's row and read forward. Timing shifts by weeks between regions: use your own frost dates.

Season	Build & prepare	Plant & grow	Harvest, store & maintain
Mid-late winter	Seed-starting station; cold frame; tool repair and sharpening; plan beds; order seeds and bare-root trees	Start onions, peppers, then tomatoes indoors (8–10, then 6–8 weeks before last frost)	Prune most fruit trees while dormant; check stored food; split wood for next winter
Early spring	Raised beds; compost bins; rain barrels before spring rain; soil test	Peas, spinach, lettuce, radishes, potatoes; plant bare-root trees and berries; asparagus crowns	Clean up beds; start hardening off transplants
Late spring	Drip irrigation; trellises; coop and run before the chicks arrive	Tomatoes, peppers, squash, beans after the last frost; herbs	Mulch once soil is warm; first greens; set up the pest-check routine
Summer	Small builds in the cooler hours; prepare cold frame for fall	Succession sow beans and greens; start fall brassicas mid-summer	Harvest often; preserve gluts (freeze, dry, can with tested recipes); water deeply
Fall	Compost bins (leaves are free and plentiful); cold frames; shed and fence work in cooler weather	Garlic (several weeks before the ground freezes); trees and shrubs; cover crops	Store squash, potatoes, onions; collect leaves for mulch and leaf mold; clean and oil tools
Early winter	Indoor projects: pantry system, worm bin, workbench	Microgreens and herbs indoors	Review the year's logs; inventory seeds; plan the next 90 days

LEAD TIMES

Some projects need ordering months ahead: bare-root trees (order in winter), chicks (order in late winter), bulk soil (book before spring), and seeds of popular varieties (they sell out).

SOUTHERN AND MILD-WINTER REGIONS

Your cool-season garden runs fall through spring, and summer heat is the hard season. Shift the planting column accordingly using your state Extension calendar.



FREE SAMPLE PAGE · THE 90-DAY HOMESTEAD PLAN

Plan a whole season

This seasonal calendar is page 9 of a 17-page planner that turns homestead ideas into finished projects.

- ✓ 16 project reference cards with hours, season and what comes first
- ✓ A scoring sheet to cut the list down to what fits
- ✓ A worked example from a quarter-acre lot
- ✓ A 90-day map and 13 weekly planning pages

Get the full planner on Etsy →

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