

TABLE 1.2: Recommended Planting Dates for Permanent Cover in Maryland ^{1/}			
Type of Plant Material	Plant Hardiness Zones		
	5b and 6a	6b	7a, 7b and 8a
Seeds - Cool-Season Grasses (includes mixes with forbs and/or legumes)	Mar 15 to May 31 Aug 1 to Sept 30	Mar 1 to May 15 Aug 1 to Oct 15	Feb 15 to Apr 30 Aug 15 to Oct 31
Seeds - Warm-Season/Cool-Season Grass Mixes (includes mixes with forbs and/or legumes)	Mar 15 to May 31 ♦ Jun 1 to Jun 15*	Mar 1 to May 15 ♦ May 16 to Jun 15*	Feb 15 to Apr 30 ♦ May 1 to May 31*
Seeds - Warm-Season Grasses (includes mixes with forbs and/or legumes)	May 15 to Jun 15 ♦ Jun 15 to Jun 30* Nov 1 to Jan 31**	May 1 to Jun 15 ♦ Jun 15 to Jun 30* Nov 15 to Jan 31**	Apr 15 to May 31 ♦ Jun 1 to Jun 30* Dec 1 to Jan 31**
Sprigs – Warm-Season Grasses	May 1 to June 1	April 15 to June 1	April 1 to May 15
Sod - Cool-Season	Mar 15 to May 31 Jun 1 to Aug 31* Sep 1 to Nov 1* †	Mar 1 to May 15 May 16 to Sep 14* Sep 15 to Nov 15* †	Feb 15 to Apr 30 May 1 to Sep 30* Oct 1 to Dec 1* †
Dormant Cuttings ^{2/}	Mar 15 to Apr 15 Oct 15 to Oct 31	Mar 1 to Apr 1 Nov 1 to Nov 15	Feb 15 to Feb 28 Nov 15 to Nov 30
Bare-Root Plants; Bulbs, Rhizomes, Corms, and Tubers ^{3/}	Mar 15 to May 31 Jun 1 to Jun 30*	Mar 1 to May 15 May 16 to Jun 30*	Feb 15 to Apr 30 May 1 to Jun 30*
Container Plants; Balled-and-Burlapped Stock	Mar 15 to May 31 Jun 1 to Jun 30* Sep 1 to Nov 15* †	Mar 1 to May 15 May 16 to Jun 30* Sep 15 to Nov 30* †	Feb 15 to Apr 30 May 1 to Jun 30* Oct 1 to Dec 15* †

TABLE 1.2 NOTES:

- 1. The planting dates listed are averages for each zone. These dates may require adjustment to reflect local conditions, especially near the boundaries of the zones. When seeding toward the end of the listed planting dates, or when conditions are expected to be less than optimal, add an appropriate nurse crop to permanent seeding mixes. Some legumes such as white/ladino and red clover can be seeded into cool-season grass stands using a frost seeding from January 15 to March 1. Success is dependent on receiving freeze-thaw cycles and adequate rainfall to germinate the legume seed.
- 2. Planting dates are approximate for locally harvested dormant cuttings that will be planted immediately. Dormant cuttings that are harvested and properly stored by commercial vendors can be planted during the spring and early summer, using the same dates as bare-root plants.
- 3. When planted during the growing season, most of these materials must be purchased and kept in a dormant condition until planting. Bare-root grasses are the exception—they may be supplied as growing (non-dormant) plants.
- ♦ In general, planting during the latter portion of this period allows more time for weed emergence and weed control prior to planting. When selecting a planting date, consider the need for weed control vs. the likelihood of having sufficient moisture for later plantings, especially on droughty sites.
- * Additional planting dates during which supplemental watering may be needed to ensure plant establishment.
- ** Dormant season plantings of warm-season grasses – starting approximately 2 weeks after the first hard freeze (average date based on air temperature reading of 28 degrees F or lower, 50% probability of occurrence). Warm-season grasses need a soil temperature of at least 50 degrees F in order to germinate. If soil temperatures are colder than 50 degrees, or moisture is not adequate, the seeds will remain dormant until conditions are favorable. Recommend increasing the seeding rate by 25% to account for some loss of seed during the winter.
- † Frequent freezing and thawing of wet soils may result in frost-heaving of materials planted in late fall, if plants have not sufficiently rooted in place.