# Seasonal Calendar

There is good reason to buy foods in season!

STOPFoodWaste.ie

Eating foods that are locally produced and in season is a great way to reduce the overall environmental impact of what we eat. These days, large food producers can grow food all year round which makes supermarket shelves not a very good indicator of what's in season. The Stop Food Waste Seasonal Calendar tracks the growing season so you'll know when it's best to buy Irish produce.

#### Why it's good to buy foods that are in season...

#### Resources

Energy and resources are needed to grow, package and transport food across a global food system. Keeping it local will reduce the amount of energy used.

#### **Food Quality**

Fruit and veg that are transported from around the world are often picked before they are fully ripe and can lose nutrients by the time we buy them. Local sourcing will keep this to a minimum.

#### Money

Money spent on locally produced food goes back into the local economy. Although Irish produce can be more expensive, buying in season means that you are investing in your local community and getting the best price for food in its prime.

#### Waste

Food produced and enjoyed locally shortens the supply chain and limits the likelihood of spoilage during transit. Much food is wasted because it fails to meet cosmetic standards. By shopping local and buying directly from the producer, you have an opportunity to buy products which retailers may not stock such as "wonky fruit and vegetables".

#### Make the most of local foods by preserving!

In Ireland, we are lucky enough to be able to buy locally grown fresh food all year round. Enjoying food in season gives us a greater appreciation for the produce. Who doesn't love a Wexford strawberry in June? Make the most of local seasonal food using the techniques in the preserving section of our website stopfoodwaste.ie.

As you will notice, there's a whole lot more available in the summer and the autumn than during the month of April when many plants are at the beginning of their growth cycle. It's during these points in the year that you will most appreciate the food that's been preserved.

#### Important to note

Wasted food, wherever it comes from, is a waste of resources.





# January





# **Febuary**



**BEETROOT** 



PURPLE SPROUTING BROCCOLI



BRUSSELS SPROUTS



CABBAGE



**CAULIFLOWER** 



**ROUND LETTUCE** 



KALE



**LEEKS** 



**MUSHROOMS** 



**CARROTS** 



**CELERIAC** 



**PARSNIPS** 



## March



**PURPLE SPROUTING BROCCOLI** 



**BRUSSELS SPROUTS** 



**CARROTS** 



**CAULIFLOWER** 



**ROUND LETTUCE** 



**CELERIAC** 



**LEEKS** 





**PARSNIPS** 



CABBAGE



KALE



# April

## **Seasonal Calendar**



CABBAGE



**CAULIFLOWER** 



**ROUND LETTUCE** 



MINT



**MUSHROOMS** 



RHUBARB



# May





## June





# July





# August

## Seasonal Calendar



**PARSLEY** 

SAGE

THYME

DILL

BASIL

MINT



# September

## **Seasonal Calendar**



MINT

**PARSLEY** 

**SAGE** 

**THYME** 

**BASIL** 

**CORIANDER** 

DILL



## **October**





## November





## December

