

IdunSeed - seed catalog and sowing calendar

IdunSeed is a copyable Google Sheets template. There is no script, no macro, no add-on and no automatic weather. Every date it shows is calculated from two things you type yourself: your last frost date, and the before/after intervals printed on your own seed packets.

IdunSeed is not an agronomic reference. The five sample rows use made-up numbers to show how the sheet behaves. Copy real numbers from your own packets, or from advice you trust, before you plan a real garden.

1. Make your own copy

Open the template in Google Sheets and choose File > Make a copy. Work only in your copy. The author's master sheet is not shared, and nothing you type is sent anywhere.

If you received the template as an .xlsx file, upload it to Google Drive and open it with Google Sheets first. The .xlsx is only a transport format for the import; IdunSeed is not an Excel product and makes no Excel-parity promise.

2. Set your last frost date

Go to the Settings sheet and type the last frost date as three separate whole numbers: year, month and day.

The template ships with the sample last frost date 2028-04-15 and the sample print week start 2028-02-28. Both are valid dates, so nothing warns you if you leave them: enter your own before you trust any date on Calendar or PrintWeek.

- Three numbers instead of one date cell means the sheet behaves the same in every locale. There is no 05/06 versus 06/05 ambiguity to get wrong.
- Impossible dates are rejected rather than silently shifted. If you type month 2 and day 30, the Settings sheet says so; it does not quietly become 2 March.
- Changing the year is one cell. Every relative date moves with it. Dates you entered as explicit fixed dates do not move.

The last frost date comes from you: your own records, your local service, or a neighbour who has gardened there longer. IdunSeed has no climate database, does not detect frost, and offers no agronomic advice of any kind.

3. Fill the Seeds sheet

Pale leaf-green cells are yours to type in. Pale gray cells are calculated. The Seeds sheet contains no formulas at all, which is why you can sort it safely.

For each of the three stages - indoor sowing, transplant, outdoor sowing - you can give either an interval or a fixed date.

- Interval columns take whole days relative to the last frost date. A negative number means before the frost date; a positive number means after it. For example, -56 to -42 means "start seven to eight weeks before the last frost".
- The columns headed OVERRIDE take a real calendar date written as YYYY-MM-DD, for example 2028-05-20. An OVERRIDE date always wins over the interval for that end of the window, and it never moves when you change the frost date or the year. The column

header says OVERRIDE, selecting the cell explains what it does, and a cell you have filled in turns pale amber - three statements of the same fact, so the colour is never the only one.

- Leave a cell blank when the packet says nothing. Blank stays blank. It never turns into a date, and it never becomes 1899 or 1970.
- Packets on hand and packets used are whole numbers. The Calendar sheet turns them into a balance and a status.
- Set the low packet threshold in Settings `B18` to a whole number from 0 to 1000. Settings `C18` shows a correction if the value is invalid; an invalid threshold does not mark positive packet balances `LOW`.

There is room for 100 seed rows. The Seed ID column is a plain number that travels with its row, so sorting the range A3:R102 keeps every row intact. Select that data range when you sort - not the whole sheet.

4. Read the Calendar sheet

Pale gray cells are calculated. Do not type in them. Dates are printed in plain ink rather than tinted text, so they stay readable in black and white and in a high-contrast viewer.

Each stage has a from date, a to date and a check column. The check column is the honest part of the sheet, and the code is what carries the meaning - the tint only repeats it:

- an empty check means nothing was entered for that stage;
- OK means both ends of the window are known;
- PART means only one end is known, so the sheet treats it as a single day;
- E-DATE means a fixed date is not a real YYYY-MM-DD date. 2026-02-30 is rejected, not turned into 2 March;
- E-OFFS means an interval is not a whole number between -3650 and 3650. Half days and text are refused instead of being truncated;
- E-FROST means an interval was given but the last frost date is not valid yet;
- E-REV means the end of a window is before its start;
- E-PKT means the packet numbers are negative, fractional, or you used more packets than you have.

A row flagged with any E- code shows no dates at all for that stage and is left out of the printable week. A wrong range is highlighted rather than quietly producing a plausible date.

5. Print one week

On the Settings sheet, set the print week start as year, month and day. The week is that day plus the following six days.

The PrintWeek sheet leads with the week itself, then the number of tasks, then the checklist. It lists every task whose window touches that week, including tasks that start on the last day and tasks that end on the first day, sorted by start date, each with a box to tick.

One line under the heading reports the sheet's own state and nothing else:

- nothing at all when the week has tasks and they all fit;
- "No task window touches this week" plus what to do next, when the week is valid but empty;

- "Only the first 40 tasks are shown", when more than 40 match;
- that the last frost date on Settings is not valid, when tasks measured from it are therefore left out;
- how many stages carry an E- code on Calendar, when some do: those stages have no dates, so no week can list them until they are fixed on Seeds. When the week is also empty, the "No task window touches this week" line and its next action follow the count.

To print: open the PrintWeek sheet, then File > Print, and choose the current sheet. In the print settings choose Scale: Fit to width, so all seven columns, including the tick boxes, land on one page width. The template file carries a print area and a fit-to-width setting, but whether Google Sheets keeps them after the import has not been verified, so check the preview before you print. The title and header rows are frozen, which is what Google Sheets repeats across printed pages. The sheet is deliberately low-ink: no filled header band, no shaded rows, hairline rules only.

6. The five sample rows

Seed IDs 1-5, on Seeds sheet rows 3-7, are marked DEMO in the Row type column and are highlighted in a different colour on the Seeds, Calendar and PrintWeek sheets. The Seed ID and the sheet row are two different numbers: rows 1 and 2 are the header rows, so Seed ID 1 sits on sheet row 3. The DEMO markers themselves are the cells C3:C7.

The five samples exist to show the mechanics:

- Tomato uses ordinary negative-then-positive intervals.
- Basil ends with a packet balance of zero, so its status is OUT.
- Carrot leaves the indoor and transplant stages blank, so those stay blank.
- Bush bean has both intervals and fixed dates, so you can see the fixed dates win.
- Leaf lettuce mixes an interval stage with a fixed-date stage and ends with a balance of one, so its status is LOW.

Type your own values over their input cells before you plan a real garden, clear every sample value your own packet does not replace, and set each reused row's Row type cell to MY DATA, the other choice in its drop-down. A row still marked DEMO keeps the sample tint, prints DEMO on PrintWeek and is still counted as a sample on Settings B19. A sample value left in a MY DATA row is planned and printed as yours: the Tomato transplant interval would print a Transplant task for a crop you never transplant, and the Bush bean OVERRIDE dates would still beat the interval you typed, so clear the intervals, OVERRIDE dates and packet counts you have no number for. Do not delete the sheet rows: the sheets line up by position, so clear or overwrite the cells and leave the rows where they are. The Settings sheet counts every DEMO marker left anywhere in the Row type column, C3:C102, so the count stays right after you sort the data range and the samples move away from C3:C7.

What IdunSeed does not do

No weather and no automatic frost detection. No universal crop database. No yield forecast. No reminders or mailings. No bed layout. No Excel-parity promise. No personal agronomic advice.

Helper sheets

Calc_Rows and Calc_Week are part of the calculation, not screens you work in, so they are hidden and are not in the tab bar. Each row of Calc_Week is one seed and one stage, which

is how the weekly overlap stays bounded and script-free.

They are still in the workbook and nothing is locked: any editor can show them again from the sheet menu. Hiding is tidiness, not protection. Do not edit or delete them.

Type over rows, do not insert or delete them

The sheets line up by position: Seeds row 3 is Calendar row 3, and Calc_Week holds three rows for every seed. Inserting or deleting whole rows breaks that alignment. To remove a seed, clear its cells and leave the row in place. To add one, type into the next empty row. Sorting the data range A3:R102 is safe because Seeds holds no formulas at all.

If the owner of a copy overwrites a formula

Any owner of a copy can type over a calculated cell; that is how spreadsheets work. If the Calendar or PrintWeek sheet starts behaving strangely, make a fresh copy of the original template and copy two things across:

- your Seeds data range A3:R102, and
- your Settings inputs B3:B5 (last frost year, month, day), B10:B12 (print week start) and B18 (low packet threshold).

Do not skip the Settings inputs. The fresh copy starts with the sample frost date 2028-04-15, and that is a valid date, so no check column complains: every relative date would quietly be measured from the sample frost date instead of yours. After copying, compare Settings B6 with your own last frost date.

If you want a reminder before you overwrite something, Google Sheets can guard a range: Data > Protect sheets and ranges, then choose "Show a warning when editing this range" for Calendar, PrintWeek, Calc_Rows and Calc_Week, and for the calculated Settings cells B6:B8, B13:B16, B19:B20 and C18. Google documents that sheet protection cannot be password protected and that any editor can still proceed, so treat it as a seat belt rather than a lock.

Worked example from this template

These are the five sample rows exactly as the template ships them, with the dates this build computes from the sample last frost date 2028-04-15. The numbers are illustrative, not agronomic advice.

Sample row	Stage	Entered as	Calendar shows
Tomato (sample)	Indoor sowing	-56 .. -42 days vs frost	2028-02-19 .. 2028-03-04
Tomato (sample)	Transplant	+7 .. +14 days vs frost	2028-04-22 .. 2028-04-29
Basil (sample)	Indoor sowing	-42 .. -28 days vs frost	2028-03-04 .. 2028-03-18
Basil (sample)	Transplant	+14 .. +21 days vs frost	2028-04-29 .. 2028-05-06
Carrot (sample)	Outdoor sowing	-14 .. +21 days vs frost	2028-04-01 .. 2028-05-06
Bush bean (sample)	Outdoor sowing	OVERRIDE 2028-05-20 .. 2028-05-27 (replaces +7 .. +14 days vs frost)	2028-05-20 .. 2028-05-27
Leaf lettuce (sample)	Indoor sowing	-35 .. -21 days vs frost	2028-03-11 .. 2028-03-25
Leaf lettuce (sample)	Transplant	OVERRIDE 2028-04-20 .. 2028-04-27	2028-04-20 .. 2028-04-27
Leaf lettuce (sample)	Outdoor sowing	-7 .. +7 days vs frost	2028-04-08 .. 2028-04-22