

MAY WHAT TO DO NOW IN THE VEGETABLE GARDEN

In May the weather can be warm, but there are often frosts at night. Check the weather forecast towards the end of the month and make sure no frosts are forecast before planting out any tender seedlings.

SEEDS TO SOW NOW:

Beans – French and Runner (inside)
Beetroot
Broad beans
Broccoli or Calibrese
Brussels sprouts
Winter cabbage
Carrots
Chard
Courgettes and Marrows (inside)

Cucumbers (inside)
Leeks
Lettuces
Peas
Pumpkins and Squashes (inside)
Radishes
Spinach
Sweetcorn (inside)
Tomatoes (inside)

Herbs that can be planted now include Coriander, Summer savory, Rocket and Dill.

PLANT OUT NOW:

Any seedlings of Brussels sprouts, Cabbages and Lettuces.

After all danger of frosts has passed (usually late May) you can plant out seedlings of:
French and Runner Beans, Celeriac, Courgettes, Cucumber, Peppers, Pumpkins, Tomatoes and Squashes.

OTHER JOBS:

Earth up potatoes. (Pull up the soil from between the rows to cover most of the plant, leaving just the tips of the leaves showing).

Start pinching out side shoots from Tomato plants.

Tie in any new canes on blackberry plants.

Water in dry spells, and keep pulling up weeds as they appear.

HARVEST:

Asparagus, early Broad Beans from seeds sown last autumn, Spring Cabbage, early Carrots, Lettuces, Radishes, Spring Onions, Herbs and Rhubarb.

JUST FOR FUN:

It's a good time of year to dry some of your garden herbs so that you will have some for the winter. You can use the dried herbs to make teas, flavour food or make a scented bath.

It is best to cut herbs before they have flowered and in the middle of the morning, after the dew has dried.

Remove any brown or damaged leaves, give them a shake and tie into small bunches with twine, leaving a loop to hang them by. Then hang them somewhere with good air circulation until they have dried out.