

OCTOBER

WHAT TO DO NOW IN THE VEGETABLE GARDEN

SEEDS TO SOW NOW:

You can sow Broad Beans now for cropping next May or June. It's best to sow them in small pots and plant out when about 5cm tall.

Sweet peas (ornamental but lovely for picking and a favourite on the veg. plot). These can be planted now in pots to flower next summer, this gives you a head start. When they are showing their first leaves they can be planted outside but may need covering with horticultural fleece in very cold weather. They can also be planted in Spring.

PLANT OUT/ TRANSPLANT NOW:

Spring Cabbage

Garlic – split the bulb into cloves, and push each one just under the soil with the pointed end upwards.

Herbs can be potted up and taken indoors to use over winter.

OTHER JOBS:

Cut Asparagus down now and apply a mulch.

Start to dig in organic matter.

Take cuttings from your Blackcurrant bushes (or other fruit) to share with friends (see below)

HARVEST:

Bring in the following before the first frosts:

Beetroot, Carrots, Pumpkins, Winter Squashes, Autumn raspberries, and any last tomatoes, peas or beans.

Bring in when needed, any time.

First Brussels Sprouts, Autumn cabbage, Chard, Leeks, Oriental salad leaves, Spring Onions, Pak choi, Winter radishes and Mooli, Spinach, Apples, Pears.

HOW TO TAKE CUTTINGS FROM FRUIT BUSHES

BLACKCURRANT:

This is said to be very easy with a high chance of success. When the leaves are starting to turn brown or fall (usually mid to late October) you can take cuttings from healthy bushes.

Cut a stem of ripened (brown) wood about 25cm off the plant. Make sure that you cut just below a leaf bud.

Carefully pick off all the leaves from the stem.

Plant your cuttings in a hole (or trench if you are doing a few) about 15cm deep, place them 20cm apart.

Make sure there are 4 or more buds below the soil surface, and at least 2 above.

Replace the soil after mixing it with a little bone meal.

Gently firm the soil around them and water well.

GOOSEBERRY:

The easiest method is Layering. It can be done any time between late September and November. Look at the bottom of your plant for a long low stem that can be bent down to the ground.

Gently push it to the soil and peg it in place, leaving 5cm or more of the tip free so that it is not touching the ground.

Put a layer of soil over the pegged down part of the stem and it will start to root.

Next Autumn it can be cut off from the parent plant and moved to its new home.

Redcurrants and White Currants can also be propagated by layering.