

SEPTEMBER

WHAT TO DO NOW IN THE VEGETABLE GARDEN

Another month to harvest crops and enjoy eating and preserving your produce. You can sow seeds for fast maturing salad crops now, and they will grow until the first frosts.

SEEDS TO SOW NOW:

Lettuces
Oriental Greens
Rocket
Spinach
Spring Onions (winter varieties)

PLANT OUT/ TRANSPLANT NOW:

Spring Cabbage
Garlic
Lettuces
Strawberry plants

OTHER JOBS:

Pinch out side shoots of tomatoes.
Keep feeding tomatoes
Tidy up the strawberry patch – remove the straw and plant any new plants.
Continue to water in dry weather.

HARVEST:

Broad Beans, French Beans, Runner Beans, Beetroots, Autumn Cabbage, Calabrese, Carrots, Chard, Courgettes and Marrows, Cucumbers, Lettuces, Onions, Oriental salad greens, Peas, Peppers and Chillis, Potatoes, Radishes, Rocket, Spinach, Summer squashes, Sweetcorn, Tomatoes, Herbs, Apples, Blackberries, Grapes, Pears, Plums, Autumn Raspberries.

MAKE A BUG HOUSE

Insects like somewhere where they can crawl into damp, dark nooks and crannies to survive the winter.

An easy way to help them out is to take a bundle of bamboo canes, cut to about 15cm long. Tie them all together with string and hang them from a tree or on the fence and the insects will soon find them. To make it extra sturdy, make a roof with two pieces of wood (about 15cm x 15cm) nailed at right angles to each other and secured to the bamboo with wood glue and wire. Make sure you hang it somewhere that is not too windy and at a slight angle so that water can drain out.

Or fill an old terracotta plant pot with fallen leaves, turn it upside down and put it in a damp corner of the garden.