Edible Bray Monthly Growing Guide - March 2023



March is one of the busiest months for growers. It is time to sow and plant the bulk of our summer crops, but we still need to keep a wary eye on the weather as temperatures can plummet at night.

Sowing Indoors In Pots Or Trays

Tomatoes, cucumbers, chard, spinach, lettuce, onion and shallot seeds. Broad beans, runner beans and peas. Spinach, chard, aubergines, pumpkins and rocket.

Sowing Outdoors Into The Soil

Onion and shallot sets, fruit bushes, fruit canes and rhubarb crowns. Asparagus crowns. Jerusalem artichokes. Beetroot, cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, leeks, carrots, parsnips, spring onions and turnips. Potatoes from mid March (first and second early types will be ready to harvest in June and July).

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<u>Tasks</u>

- Collect rainwater for garden use.
- Protect seedlings from frost with fleece or cloches. Remember to water beneath them at least weekly.
- Clean, sharpen and safely store tools.
- Continue organic Wildlife Management Measures. Use no chemicals.
- Plant bare root fruit trees, bushes and canes.
- Prune apple and pear trees and gooseberries and currants.
- Cover emerging rhubarb crowns with forcing bins if desired.
- Remove old leaves from strawberries.
- *Remove and discard any leftover potatoes from last year's bed.*
- Give fruit bushes, fruit trees and strawberries first feed. Use organic materials such as manure, chicken pellets, seaweed or liquid organic feed where practicable.

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Harvesting

Brussels sprouts, winter greens, parsnips, leeks, kale, celeriac, cauliflower, cabbage, turnips and swedes.