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Monthly Growing Guide - May 2023



May is a busy month for growers. It marks the real start of fruit and vegetable planting in the garden, containers or plot. Keep a close eye on the weather as late frosts can damage young plants and dry spells can hamper growth. Hard work in May will help produce healthy and bountiful harvests in the summer.

Sowing Outdoors Into Soil Or Containers.

Beetroot, Parsnip and Carrot seeds, thickly, in rows with 30 cm between rows.

Peas and Beans, each seed 15cm apart.

Lettuce, Spinach, Chard and Radishes.

Sowing Indoors In Pots Or Trays

Courgettes, Celeriac, Leeks, Peas, Beans, Squashes, Globe Artichokes, Pumpkins, Chillies, Aubergines, Herbs, Cabbage, Kale, Purple Sprouting Broccoli, Lettuces and Tomatoes.

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Planting Outdoors

Young courgettes, pumpkins, squashes, lettuces, peas, beans, leeks, chard, spinach and herbs.

Planting Indoors

Tomatoes, cucumbers and chillis.

Tasks

- Water all of your new sowing and planting weekly (unless there is plenty of rain).
- Feed weekly with organic liquid feed.
- Weed all planted areas thoroughly to prevent weeds being a problem in summer.

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- Check, Clean and Sharpen Tools.
- Continue organic Wildlife Management Measures. Use no chemicals.
- Earth up potatoes once they are 20cm tall, to protect tubers from sunlight and frost. Earth up to a soil depth of 15cm.
- Protect seedlings from frost by using fleece or cloches. Cloches are simply protective domes made from glass or plastic, such as used water or lemonade bottles.
- Thin out carrot seedlings, and use fleece to protect from carrot fly.
- Make supports for peas and beans, such as wigwam structures made from bamboo canes, bean poles or hazel stick supports for peas.
- *Make good use of the longer daylight in the evening.*
- Mulch between plants with organic material to help retain moisture in the soil.