

Vegetable Growing: A Monthly Calendar

Month : January

General Tasks	Sow	Plant	Harvest
Clear and burn rubbish not suitable for composting	<i>Outdoors:</i>	<i>Outdoors:</i>	Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Kale, Lamb Lettuce, Leek, Parsnips, Swiss Chard
Plan your plot		Fruit bushes and canes	
Order seed			
A very quiet month!			

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Month : February

General Tasks	Sow	Plant	Harvest
Prepare brassica beds	<i>Outdoors:</i>	<i>Outdoors:</i>	
Clean Asparagus beds, mulch with well rotted manure or compost - before growth starts to avoid damage to the new tips	Parsnips (week 4 onward)	Raspberries	Broccoli - Purple Sprouting, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage
Prepare beds for sowing next month	Broad Beans, Peas, Spring Onions, Onions (from seed)	Shallots (from mid Feb),	Kale, Lamb Lettuce, Leek, Parsnip, Swiss Chard, Spinach
Mulch compost around gooseberry, blackcurrant and redcurrant bushes, and raspberry canes	<i>Under Cover:</i>		
Finish pruning apple, pear and gooseberry trees	Summer Cabbage		
Shorten sideshoots on red and white currants to just one bud and remove old stems crowding the centre of the bush	Radish, Lettuce, Rocket, Spinach, Early Turnips		
Remove any volunteer potato to keep plot free from blight.	<i>Under Heated Cover:</i>		
Harvest green manure crops	Aubergine, Pepper		
Plan you plot around a four year rotation			
Prepare potato bed by forking in compost or rotted manure			
Top-dress perennial or overwintering crops with compost			
Winter is almost over, get ready for serious gardening!			

A Vegetable-Growing Guide for Beginners

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Month : March

General Tasks	Sow	Plant	Harvest
Prune apple, plum trees	Outdoors:	Outdoors:	
Prune raspberries and gooseberries	Beetroot, Broad beans, Brussels Sprouts, Garlic,]Kohl Rabi, Leeks, Lettuce, Parsnip, Radish, Spring Onion, Spinach, Turnip	Bare-rooted fruit trees (last chance)	Broccoli - Purple Sprouting
Compost around the base of fruit trees	Under Cover:	Potato (First earlies)	Brussels Sprouts, Winter Cauliflower, Cabbage - Spring Greens
Warm up soil by covering with plastic, fleece or cloches	Cabbage (summer), Carrots, Peppers, Lettuce, Spinach	Onion and Shallot sets	Kale, Leeks, Parsnips
	Under Heated Cover:	Asparagus Crown	Perpetual Spinach, Swiss Chard, Spinach
	Aubergine, Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Celery		Turnip tops
Get ready for the busy month ahead!			

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Month : April

General Tasks	Sow	Plant	Harvest
Support for early peas	Outdoors:	Outdoors:	Broccoli Purple Sprouting, Cabbage (spring greens)
Thin leek seedlings to 1.5 inches	Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Carrots, Swiss Chards, Kale, Kohl Rabi, Leeks, Lettuce, Peas, Radish, Spinach, Turnip, Herbs	Potatoes (second earlies and maincrops)	Lettuce, Leek, Rocket, Spinach, Swiss Chard, Turnip Tops, Rhubarb
Prepare beds for squashes and cucumber	Under Cover:	Onion and Shallot sets	
Propagate perennial herbs	French Beans, Courgettes, Cucumbers, Lettuce, Marrows, Pumpkins, Sweet Corn	Asparagus Crowns	
	Under Heated Cover:	Under Cover:	
	Aubergine, Celery, Cucumber	Aubergine, Peppers, Tomatoes	
Beware of weeds; Don't let weeds overtake your crops!			

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Month : May

General Tasks	Sow	Plant	Harvest
Protect strawberries with mulch of straw, or black plastic with slits	<i>Outdoors:</i>	<i>Outdoors:</i>	Asparagus, Broccoli Purple Sprouting, Cabbage Spring Greens,
Clean out carrots showing signs of carrot fly. Cover carrot planting with fleece/enviro-mess to protect from carrot root fly	Beans (French and Runner), Beetroot, Broccoli, Cabbage (Winter, Savoy), Calabrese, Carrots, Cauliflowers, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Courgettes, Marrow, Pumpkin, Peas, Radish, Spinach, Spring Onions, Turnip	Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage (summer, red), Celery, Leek, Potatoes (last chance), Sweetcorn, Herbs	Lettuce, Peas, Rhubarb, Radish, Rocket, Spinach
Pinch of tops of broad beans to discourage black fly.	<i>Under Cover:</i>	<i>Under Cover:</i>	
Support for main crop peas	Sweet Corn	Aubergine, Peppers, Tomatoes, Cucumber	
Thin carrots, Parsnips, Chard, Spinach and Brassicas seedlings			
Earthing up potatoes			
Weed fruit - canes and bushes			
Have plenty of water butts ready to collect rain water			
Watch out dry spells, water regularly!			

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Month : June

General Tasks	Sow	Plant	Harvest
Summer prune gooseberries and redcurrants - cut back new shoots to about 5 inches long at a bud (except for shoots you want to keep for next year)	<i>Outdoors:</i>	<i>Outdoors:</i>	Broad Beans (autumn sowing), Beetroot, Carrot, Lettuce, Peas, Radish, Rocket, Spinach, Spring Onions, Turnips,
Protect strawberries with straw around the plant	Beans (French and Runner), Beetroot, Carrots, Cauliflowers, Courgettes, Cucumber, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Marrow, Pumpkin, Peas, Radish, Turnip	Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage (summer, red), Calabrese, Celery, Leek, Runner Beans, Tomato	Gooseberries, Strawberries
Pinch top shoots of Broad Beans, water after flowers start		<i>Under Cover:</i>	
Water French beans and peas		Peppers	
Pull soil off onions to let sun ripen them			
Pinch cucumber tips at 6-7 leaves, marrows at 2 feet long			
STOP cutting asparagus shoots after the middle of the month			
Watch for early signs of any pests/diseases!			

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Month : July

General Tasks	Sow	Plant	Harvest
Feed French Beans after harvesting for a later (smaller) crop - pick pods when about 4 inches long, and keep picking	Outdoors:	Outdoors:	Broad Beans (spring sowing), Peas, French Beans, Runner Beans, Beetroots, Carrots, Cabbage, Courgettes, Cucumber, Lettuce, Radish, Rocket, Spinach, Turnips
Check the undersides of brassicas leaves for the eggs or caterpillars of the cabbage white butterfly	Spring Cabbage, Chinese cabbage, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Parsley, Peas, Radish, Turnip, French Beans, Beetroots, Carrots	Broccoli, Calabrese, Cauliflower, Kale, Leek, Cabbage (winter and Savoy)	Potato (early), Onion (autumn sowing), Shallots, Garlic
Lettuce, spring onions, radishes, rocket			Raspberries, Blackcurrants, Gooseberries, Redcurrants, Strawberries, Rhubarb
Earth up sweet corn roots, shake plants in block to help pollination			
Crop cucumbers at 6 inches, gherkins at 4 inches, courgettes at 4 inches			
Clean out carrots showing signs of carrot fly			
Remove flower heads on herbs			

Keep harvesting your crops and freeze surplus fruit and vegetable for winter!

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Month : August

General Tasks	Sow	Plant	Harvest
Thin brassicas seedlings	<i>Outdoors:</i>	<i>Outdoors:</i>	Broad Beans (spring sowing), Peas, French Beans, Runner Beans, Beetroots, Broccoli, Carrots, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Courgettes, Cucumber, Lettuce, Marrow, Radish, Rocket, Spinach, Swisschard, Turnips
Protect marrows and squashes with a tile or glass underneath fruit	Lettuce, Parsley, Spring cabbage, Chinese cabbage, Kohlrabi, Winter radish, Spinach, Swisschard, Turnip	Cabbage, Kale	Potato (early), Onion, Shallots, Garlic, Sweetcorn
Clean out carrots showing signs of carrot fly	Green manure		Apples, Pears, Peaches, Plums, Raspberries, Blackcurrants, Redcurrants, Strawberries
Prune out old canes of summer-fruited raspberries			
Dig up strawberry plants which have fruited three times			
Chop off leaves, stalks, unwanted runners to about 1 inch from the top of the plant. Leave runners on healthy plants for propagation			
Leave out harvested onions to dry before storing			
Continue harvesting!			

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Month : September

General Tasks	Sow	Plant	Harvest
Draw soil up around broccoli stems to protect from frost	<i>Outdoors:</i>	<i>Outdoors:</i>	French Beans, Runner Beans, Peas,
Cut down asparagus foliage and mulch bed well with compost or well-rotted manure	Lettuce, Parsley, Spinach	Spring Cabbage, Onion sets, Garlic	Broccoli, Summer Cabbage (Savoy, Red), Cauliflower, Lettuce, Spring Onions, Spinach, Swiss Chard
Prune Raspberry (summer fruiting) canes - cut out old canes to make way for new growth		Strawberries	Beetroot, Rocket, Turnips, Carrots, Onions, Sweet corn, Tomato, Potato
Prune mature plum trees after fruiting			Courgettes, Cucumber, Marrows, Pumpkin, Squash
Check the undersides of brassicas leaves for the eggs or caterpillars of the cabbage white butterfly			Apples, Pears, Plums, Peaches, Nectarines, Strawberries, Blackberries, raspberries
Support tall plants to protect from winds			
End of season? Not really if the Autumn is going to be mild!			

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Month : October

General Tasks	Sow	Plant	Harvest
Earth up leeks	<i>Outdoors:</i>	<i>Outdoors:</i>	Aubergine, Carrots, Courgettes, Beetroot, Beans, Leek, Peas, Peppers, Pumpkins, Lettuce, Rocket, Spring Onions, Spinach, Swiss Chard, Turnips
Prepare plot for next year	Oriental greens, Broad Beans, Peas	Gooseberry bushes and Raspberry canes	Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower
Clear up beds with any finished crops	<i>Under Cover:</i>	Spring cabbage, Kale, Garlic, Onion sets	Pumpkin, Squash, Sweet corn, Tomato, Celery, Potato, Radish
	Lettuce, Spinach		Raspberries, Apple, Pears

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Month : November

General Tasks	Sow	Plant	Harvest
	<i>Outdoors:</i>	<i>Outdoors:</i>	
Continue digging	Broad Beans, Peas (some hardy varieties)	Any new fruit bushes and canes	Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Kale
Mulch beds with horse manure (except carrots and parsnips)	<i>Under Cover:</i>	Garlic, Onion sets (at the beginning of the month)	Carrots, Leek, Parsnips, Radish, Turnips
Earth up Spring Cabbage	Spinach, Lettuce (winter hardy varieties)		Spring Onions, Swiss Chard
Prune currant and gooseberry bushes			Courgette*, Lettuce*, Pak Choi*, Spinach*, Spring Onion, Swiss Chard
Take cuttings of currants and gooseberries			Apples, Pears, Raspberries
Net Brussels Sprouts, Broccoli and other winter brassicas to protect them from pigeon damage			
Cover Bare grounds with leaves, weed cloth, straw or cardboard			
Prepare a box/container for leaf mould			
Cover compost bins to keep the rain out and heat in			
Remove yellowing leaves from winter brassicas			

Winter is approaching, relax and enjoy eating your produce!

** Depends on weather; Because of the mild autumn weather this year (2005), I have been able to harvest these crops until the second week of November.*

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Month : December

General Tasks	Sow	Plant	Harvest
Weather permitting, make compost pit, raised beds, for next year.	None	None	Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Kale, Lamb Lettuce, Parsnip, Swiss Chard, Turnips
Happy Christmas & New Year!			