

Things to do - June

You could be picking

- **Asparagus** spears until mid to late June.
- **Lettuce, cabbage, over wintered spring onion, baby beets, herbs.**
- **parsley and mint can be finely chopped and frozen dry or in water in ice cube trays**
- **towards end of June broad beans, peas, early potatoes, baby carrots start**

If you are digging and clearing

- **If you are digging try to add some organic matter (compost or manure)**
- **Get compost heap going with a mixture of material, wet and dry and toss in some grass cuttings to keep it hot. DO NOT COMPOST PERENNIAL WEED/ROOTS**
- **Try to cover any soil not in use to avoid annual weeds developing.**
- **Uncover strawberry bed to improve pollination and mulch to protect fruit.**
- **HOE ON DRY DAYS TO KEEP DOWN WEEDS**
- **Environmesh is effective cover and gives some protection from bird/insects/frost.**

You could be sowing and planting

- **It is still time for sowing – try maincrop beetroot, calabrese, lettuce, oriental greens, carrots, fennel, French and runner beans, peas, kohlrabi, radish rocket spring onion, swede, turnips, courgettes, squash, cucumber, sweet corn directly into the soil.**
- **Plant out ...Brussels sprouts, sprouting broccoli, winter cabbage, cauliflowers, celery, courgettes, squash, cucumber, leeks, sweetcorn if sown earlier indoors/in pots.**
- **In a cold frame/greenhouse/or under fleece plant out tomatoes(need protection from blight on Cripely), peppers aubergines**
- **Sow Brussels sprouts, Calabrese, summer cauliflowers, kale. French beans, runner beans and sweet corn can be sown to come through after last frosts.**
- **Continue to sow hardy annuals like cornflower, nigella, Californian poppy, poached egg plant, sweet peas - all easy to grow and seed and bird/ hoverfly friendly. Sow wall flowers and other biennials for colour next year. Other good nectar plants are Buddleia Aubrietia Scabious Hebe Hemp Agrimony Honesty Ice plant Sweet rocket Lavender Michaelmas daisy Sweet William Nasturtium Betony Lady's smock. Sow biennials now**

Other Jobs

- **Manage your hawthorn. This has much to offer as a garden shrub but cannot grow to a tree on the allotments where we only have dwarf fruit trees on plots. Cut it to shrub size (and ensure its height and root spread are within your boundary) and enjoy the benefits of the wonderful spring flowers and the crop of red fruit, called 'haws', in autumn. The blossom will still be a nectar source for bees and many other flying insects and support a huge range of invertebrates which will in turn attract birds such as blue tits. In the autumn the haws will be taken eagerly by blackbirds and thrushes. Hawthorn is also a good nest-building site for many birds, the sharp thorns serving to deter predators.**
- **Cut grass and any weed areas, brambles regularly to keep in check.**
- **Leave a patch of nettles where you keep contained (mow around) as valuable for butterflies**
- **If you want to reclaim a grassy area cut weekly. Add to compost bin (not nettle roots)**
- **Grow some Russian comfrey (Bocking 14) for FREE high performance feed**
- **Dead head chives and lemon balm if you do not want them to seed**