

Things to do in May

You could be picking

- Look out for Asparagus spears. Do not cut new plants past end of May.
- Early lettuce and overwintered spring onion

You could still be digging and clearing

- If you are digging try to **add some organic matter** (compost or manure) to make it worth while.
- 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.
- Divide clumps of mint/ chives to rejuvenate. Plant mint in a sunken bucket
- **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 busy time for sowing – try peas (try sugar peas where you can eat it all- more substantial and easier than mangetout), broad beans, beetroot, radish, spinach, spring onion, cabbages, endive, lettuce, carrots,(Cover to keep off carrot fly) chard and turnips and fennel.
- Sow herbs like chives, coriander, and parsley. If you can sow small amounts and re-sow when germinated to keep a steady supply
- In a cold frame/greenhouse/or under fleece sow Brussels sprouts, Calabrese, summer cauliflowers, kale. French beans, runner beans and sweet corn can be sown to come through after last frosts.
- With heat sow celery, cucumber, basil, melons, courgettes, marrows, squash and sweet corn in individual pots or transplant if sown earlier.
- Plant out early sowings of tomatoes and peppers in greenhouse/polytunnel
- Earth up potatoes as they sprout to keep covered from frost. If you have trouble with scab on your potatoes try a layer of grass cuttings or cut wilted comfrey in the bottom of the trench to keep in moisture.
- 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.
- If weather is okay courgettes and squash can be planted out at end of month.
- Thin outdoor sowings of brassicas
- Earth up potatoes to protect from frost

Other Jobs

- If frost is forecast protect early fruit blossom with fleece. Uncover on frost free days
- Erect pea/ bean poles. If mice are a problem try sowing peas in a length of guttering under cover then plant out when rooted,
- Cut grass and any nettle beds regularly to keep in check. 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