**January**

* Order **seeds**. Order summer-flowering bulbs. Buy first-early **potatoes**.
* Apply an organic fertiliser such as blood/fish/bone or seaweed (or next month).
* Feed **apple** tree this month or Feb or March.
* Compost decaying leaves (unless hedgehogs are hibernating).
* Mulch vegetable beds with manure/compost.
* Spike the **lawn** and brush in some sand.
* Insulate pots if it’s very cold.
* Clean pots and trays with weak solution of household bleach or detergent.
* Move deciduous trees/shrubs.
* For **aphid**-damaged fruit trees, apply a plant oil winter wash this month or next, which will destroy overwintering aphid eggs.
* Prune **trees** to shape. (Prune out unwanted stems, cutting to a junction or the main stem. If you want to make a standard tree with a length of bare trunk, cut back some of the side growths now too. Don’t do it all at once. Instead, shorten some this year and completely remove next year. Use a pruning saw.)­­
* Winter-prune **apple** and **pear** trees (or any time from Nov to Feb).
  + Aims:-
    1. Cut out dead/damaged/diseased wood.
    2. Remove overlapping/overcrowded branches.
    3. Stimulate growth of new fruit buds.
  + Remove branches growing in towards the middle of the tree. Cut them back to the ‘collar’ where they join the main stem. (See allotment book for pics.)
  + Shorten by half or third any branches that are too long. Cut back to a side branch that faces outwards, not inwards.
  + Make any cuts at an angle, so face of wound slopes gently down, allowing rain to run off.
  + Remove old, tired, branches, and thin some of the recent growth by cutting back to shorter, outward-facing stems.
  + Cut out new shoots that have sprouted from around the wounds of previous years’ pruning cuts. These shoots are unlikely ever to fruit.
* Prune **wisteria**. Shorten the long shoots you shortened in summer, this time to two or three buds from the main stems. Do same to any new side-shoots that have grown since summer.
* Any major pruning of **acer** should be done now (or next month).
* Last chance to prune **grapes**. (By next month, the sap will be rising.)
* Start early **potatoes** chitting.
* Sow **leeks, peas, onions,** and early summer **cauliflowers** indoors.
* Sow **foxgloves** in greenhouse.
* Sow **broad beans** indoors or under cover.
* Harvest winter **cabbages**, **cauliflower**, and other **brassicas**, **leeks**, **celeriac**, **parsnips**, **sprouts**, **kale, kalettes**.

**February**

* Top-dress shrubs in large pots. Scrape off an inch of old compost and replace with new compost that contains slow-release fertiliser.
* Mulch **apple**, **pear**, **plum** trees. Last chance to winter-prune them (see notes in Jan). Spread high-potash feed or blood/fish/bone around base of these trees, covered by a layer of manure/compost.
* Cut old dead growth from **sedums**.
* Prune late-flowering **clematis**, then feed.
* Prune autumn-fruiting (NOT summer-fruiting) **raspberries** by cutting all canes to the ground.
* Prune **Boston** **ivy**.
* Lift and divide overcrowded clumps of **snowdrops** after flowering but before the leaves fade.
* Chit **potatoes**.
* Plant **snowdrops** and winter **aconites** in-the-green.
* Plant **shallots**.
* Sow **foxgloves**. Sow the following indoors: **lettuce, sprouting broccoli, globe artichokes, kalettes, tomato**, **onion**, **leek**, early **peas**, early **sprouts** and **sprouting** **broccoli**.
* Sow spring **broad** **beans** outdoors if ground not too hard, or indoors/undercover if it’s very cold.
* Sow **peas** undercover.
* Plant out **Jerusalem artichoke** tubers.
* Plant **raspberry** canes between now and the end of Feb. Prune the new canes to nine inches above the ground. In the first year, remove most flowers so you get good crops next year.
* Harvest **cabbage**, **cauliflower**, **sprouts**, **kale**, **kalettes**, **leeks**, **celeriac**, **parsnips**.

**March**

* Mulch. (Never put on dry soil. Water first.) Apply fertiliser before sowing and planting begins.
* **Asparagus**: Apply 100g per square metre of general fertiliser or blood, fish, and bone. If growth is weak, repeat this application once harvesting has finished. Keep asparagus bed weed-free. Don’t use a hoe, because roots are shallow. (Feed again after cropping.)
* Sprinkle balanced general fertiliser around the base of **pear** trees. NB, pear trees in pots benefit from John Innes no. 3.
* Feed **olive** tree with blood, fish, and bone. Start feeding little and often from now until mid-Aug.
* Mulch **blueberries** with pine needles or leaf mould.
* Start feeding **houseplants** monthly.
* Remove old foliage from pond plants.
* Start mowing.
* Move evergreen shrubs.
* Cut back climbers (because you can see where the new buds are by now), e.g. **honeysuckle**, **ivy**, **jasmine**.
* Plant **climbers**.
* Plant and divide perennials. Feed and mulch after planting.
* Trim perennial **herbs**.
* Split **primula** plants after flowering.
* Prune **buddleia** this month or next, down to 40cm, removing dead wood. Add organic compost and balanced fertiliser (eg potash-rich Vitax Q4).
* Cut back **honeysuckle**, especially the dead wood.
* Last chance to winter-prune **blueberries**.
* Support herbaceous perennials now, before they’ve grown very much.
* Repot **houseplants** in spring or summer.
* Sow **lettuce** and summer/autumn **cauliflower** indoors or undercover.
* Sow **foxgloves** and **calendula**. Sow **Californian poppy** outdoors between now and May.
* Sow a **wildflower** meadow.
* Sow **carrots** undercover (or outdoors from next month onwards).
* Sow **sprouts**, **sprouting** **broccoli**, **tomato, celeriac, globe artichokes, kalettes, peppers**, and summer/autumn **cabbages** indoors.
* Sow **leeks**, **sprouting broccoli, peas, onions, parsnips, kalettes, spring onions,** and **calabrese** outside.
* Sow hardy **herbs** outdoors near the end of the month, inc **coriander**, **marjoram**, **parsley**, **fennel**. Or sow **fennel** indoors.
* Near the end of the month, start **tomato** seeds indoors.
* Sow hardy annuals outdoors. Don’t use manure/compost because they’ll grow as all leaves with few flowers. Just add a bit of general fertiliser.
* Start sowing vegetable seeds outside regularly, after applying organic fertiliser (eg seaweed). **Lettuce**, **salad** **leaves**, **broad** **beans**. Plant out **broad beans** that were sown indoors, either this month or next.
* Plant out first early **potatoes**, **onion** **sets**, **garlic**, and **shallots**.
* Plant out **onions** from seed, **peas**, early summer **cauliflower**. Plant out **Jerusalem artichoke** tubers.
* Finish harvesting **parsnips**, **sprouts**, **celeriac**. Harvest **leeks, kalettes,** and **kale**.
* The first **spring** **onions** of the year can be harvested, from seeds sown in Aug/Sep.
* Hardy varieties of **purple** **sprouting** should have overwintered from sowings last summer and can be picked now.

**April**

* Mulch when soil moist and warm.
* Protect against slugs using beer traps or nematodes.
* **Acer**. Top up with small amount of slow-release fertiliser. NB: likes acid to neutral soil, and can cope with low nutrient levels. Place where wind and hot midday sun won’t affect it.
* **Silver** **birch**. Feed with general granular plant food. (NB in pot, use native soil rather than potting soil.)
* **Plum** trees need plenty of nitrogen-rich fertiliser. For established trees, add a mulch of well-rotted farmyard manure, plus dried poultry pellets or non-organic nitrogen fertiliser (eg sulphate of ammonia).
* Mulch **blueberries** with pine needles or leaf mould. Mulch **grapes**.
* Repot **bay** every other year.
* Protect feathery **asparagus** growth from wind, using stakes and twine to make a ‘fence’ either side of row.
* Divide **waterlilies**.
* Tie in climbers.
* Divide summer-flowering and autumn-flowering perennials and bulbs.
* Thin the shoots on perennials such as **lupins** and **phlox**, to get the best flowers.
* **Wisteria**: feed with potassium-rich feed.
* **Lavender**: cut back previous year’s growth by 5cm to strong pairs of buds. Don’t cut old wood.
* Divide hardy **geraniums** (every 3 or 4 years).
* Prune **gala** **apple** tree. Always prune on a dry day, to reduce infection risk. In second year only, prune so you have 4 branches off the trunk (so not overcrowded). Aim to have those branches evenly spaced around tree. Ideally you want those branches spaced 10cm apart up the trunk. Keep lowest branch at least 75cm (ideally more) above ground. Most importantly, main branches should point outwards not upwards, so you don’t overcrowd the tree. From 3rd year onwards, avoid pruning out fruiting spurs. If you examine apple tree structure in winter (i.e. no leaves) you can see difference between this year’s stem growth and older growth. You’ll also be able to see fruiting spurs, i.e. stems from which fruit will be produced this summer. Aim for wine-glass shape. Encourage branches to point outwards not upwards from main trunk. Prune in gentle stages, not hard (or the tree will rebel with lots of bushy, unproductive, stems where you pruned). Remove crossing/touching branches and diseased wood.
* Trim **hebe** to shape. Prune **plums** once leaf buds open. Prune **rosemary**.
* Introduce new aquatic plants.
* Sow **calendulas**, **nigella**, annual climbers. Sow annual grasses, e.g. **quaking** **grass**.
* Sow **leeks** outside in a nursery bed (before moving to final position).
* Most root crops can be sown outdoors, eg **carrots** and **parsnips**.
* Sow **lettuce** and summer/autumn **cauliflower** indoors or undercover.
* Finish planting **onion** **sets**. Plant out **onion** seedlings.
* Sow **celeriac,** summer/autumn/red **cabbages,** winter **cabbages**, **tomatoes**, **fennel**, **kalettes, kale**, and **sprouting broccoli** indoors.
* Sow **spring onions**, **parsnips**, **sprouts**, **peas**, **kalettes**, **sprouting broccoli**, and **calabrese,** outdoors.
* Sow **dill** in place (because it dislikes disturbance) between now and June.
* Harden off and plant out **herbs**, **lettuces, peas, kalettes, broad beans,** and **globe artichokes** grown from seed or sets. Support peas once first tendrils appear.
* Plant new **Jerusalem** **artichoke** tubers. Plant second early and maincrop **potatoes**.
* Sow **tomatoes** indoors early in month if not done already. Sow **courgettes** (mid to late in month) and **French** **beans** (late in month or early May) indoors. Sow **sweetcorn**.
* Harden off and plant out **peas** and **broad** **beans**. Support peas once first tendrils can be seen.
* Thin out vegetable seedlings.
* Earth up first early **potatoes**.
* Pot up **strawberries**. Feed with sulphate of potash or tomato feed. Remove blossom from new young strawberries you planted last autumn or this spring, because you don’t want these to crop in their first year.
* Take offsets from established **globe** **artichokes**, and plant them.
* **Asparagus**: harvest from mid-April for six weeks (from year three) and for eight weeks (from year four). To harvest, cut spears with a sharp knife 2.5cm below the soil when they are no more than 18cm tall. In warm weather, harvest every two or three days for the best quality spears. Harvest spears when they reach thickness of your index finger.
* Harvest **sprouting** **broccoli**, **lettuce**, and **spring** **onion**, and finish harvesting **leeks** and **kale**.

**May**

* Sprinkle organic fertiliser around bulbs.
* Feed and mulch **globe** **artichokes**.
* **Blueberries**: apply tomato food or other potash food throughout growing season. Net bushes.
* **Grapes**: throughout growing season, feed monthly with either blood/fish/bone or liquid seaweed.
* Thin out aquatic plants.
* Support **broad** **beans** using twine strung between canes so the plants don’t fall over. Pinch out tips of broad bean plants as soon as the pods start to form lower down. (Blackfly would otherwise be attracted to the tender growing shoots at the top of the plant. If you do get blackfly, spray with soapy water.)
* Prune **pyracantha**. Prune **clematis** **montana**, once it has flowered.
* Stake and support perennials. Support climbing **peas**/**beans**. Tie in climbers.
* Thin annuals to leave one seedling every 6 inches. Thin out veg seedlings ruthlessly.
* Tidy clump-forming perennials. Cut back and divide. Then feed with organic fertiliser.
* Deadhead spring-flowering bulbs.
* Prune **raspberries**. Remove excess canes to avoid overcrowding.
* Prune **plum** trees in spring/summer. (Avoid pruning in dormant season or mid/ate autumn due to risk of disease.) Once fruit has set, may need thinning to ease congestion, boost fruit size, and reduce weight.
* Thin **apple** clusters to two per cluster.
* Pick off **asparagus** beetles (before they get a chance to lay eggs).
* **Chelsea** **chop**, very late this month. See under general info.
* Net **brassicas**, **peas**, **strawberries**, because of pigeons.
* Prune **bay** for general maintenance, e.g. damaged branches. Prune back to a lower leaf bud. (Topiary pruning happens in summer.)
* **Olive** tree: remove dead or overcrowded branches, so light can reach the centre of the tree. Pinch out tips of young shoots so that they’ll develop a branching shape.
* Put straw or strawberry mats under **strawberries**. Remove runners from strawberry plants. Continue picking flowers off first-year strawberries.
* Begin sowing and planting outdoors in earnest, but late frosts can kill seeds. Use weather to make judgement on indoors vs outdoors. Harden off seedlings and plant out once weather warmish. Protect with a cloche if it’s cold. Sow most veg in temporary seedbed before moving to final positions.
* Earth up **potatoes**.
* Sow perennial seeds outside. Plant **calendulas**/**marigolds**. (Will attract aphid-eating insects.)
* Sow **foxglove** seeds (or in June or July) on surface of compost.
* Sow **dill** outside, in place. Sow **kale** and **peas** outdoors. Sow more **lettuce**.
* Sow biennials outside, eg **forget-me-not**, **sweet williams**, **winter pansies**, **aquilegias**.
* Sow **sprouting broccoli,** summer/autumn/red **cabbages, courgette,** winter **cabbages**, **kale**, **French/climbing beans**, and **peppers** indoors.
* Sow winter/spring **cauliflower**.
* Sow **spring onions**, **sprouting broccoli**, **carrots**, **peas**, **sprouts**, **lettuce**, **fennel**, and **calabrese** outdoors.
* Sow **borage** once there’s no risk of frost. Sow near strawberries to encourage pollination and thus yields. Or sow near veg and other herbs.
* Finish sowing **sprouts** (inside or out, depending on weather).
* Sow summer/autumn **cauliflower** and **French/climbing beans** undercover.
* Late in month or early next month, plant **French**/**climbing** **bean** seedlings outside, once danger of frosts is over. Ditto **courgette** seeds. Use bottle cloches to protect from slugs and frosts. Or sow courgettes indoors.
* Harden off and plant out **sprouts**, **summer**/**autumn** **cauliflower**, **kalettes**, **sweet** **potato** (in earthed-up mounds or ridges), **herbs**, **leeks**, **lettuces**, **celeriac**, **globe** **artichoke** seedlings or sets, **courgettes**, **peas**, last of the **potatoes**, **sprouting** **broccoli** (in packed-down ground, with brassica collars), **fennel**, summer/autumn **cauliflower**, **sprouts**, summer/autumn/red **cabbages, peppers,** and **leeks** in final positions.
* Plant out **tomatoes** and **courgettes** late this month or early next month, once night-time temperature is above 10˚.
* Harvest **asparagus**, and baby **globe** **artichokes**, last of winter/spring **cauliflower**. May be able to start harvesting **spring** **onions**.

**June**

* **Grapes**: feed once with blood/fish/bone or seaweed.
* Feed **blueberries** regularly with tomato food or similar.
* Feed **asparagus** with a general-purpose fertilizer once you’ve stopped picking spears. Leave plants to grow.
* Tidy **hellebores**. Remove old leaves and flowers.
* Deadhead.
* Pinch out growing shoots of **sage** to keep bush compact.
* Lift and divide overcrowded bulb clumps.
* After harvesting **peas** and **broad** **beans**, cut down the top growth but leave roots in soil to return nitrogen.
* Net **peas**, **cabbages**, **fruit** **bushes**.
* Prune **silver** **birch** when in full leaf, to prevent wounds bleeding and weakening plant.
* Remove mouldy, infected **strawberries**. (DON’T compost them.)
* Remove **raspberry** suckers.
* Thin **apples** and **pears**. ‘June drop’ happens naturally late in month, dropping excess fruit. In a good year, you’ll need to thin further.
* Thin out **plums** at start of month, leaving 2.5cm gap between fruits, then again at end of month to 8cm gap.
* **Grapes**: Prune side shoots and thin fruit.
* Pinch out **broad** **bean** tips to discourage aphids.
* Pick off **asparagus** beetles (red, white, and black), and larvae.
* Remove and destroy any yellow leaves on **brassicas** (due to mould risk).
* Cut back tired old growth on **herbs** to stimulate new growth.
* Plant autumn-flowering **anemones**.
* Plant out tender seedlings with confidence! Plant **tomatoes** outside, and begin feeding them.
* Plant **hanging** **baskets**.
* Sow second batch of **kale** in seed trays indoors.
* Sow late **sprouting** **broccoli** in situ or in a seed bed. Can harvest autumn or next year.
* Sow **carrots, courgettes,** **dill**, **peas, kale, spring onions, lettuce, calabrese,** and **fennel** outside.
* Sow a second wave of **French** **beans** to follow those sown last month. Plant out any you propagated inside.
* Last chance to sow **herbs**.
* Dib in **leeks**.
* Plant out **sprouts**. Use brassica collars. Protect from butterflies and birds.
* Plant out summer/autumn **cauliflower**, **sweet** **peppers**, **courgettes**, **French** **beans**, summer/autumn/red **cabbages,** winter **cabbages**, then **celeriac** late in month.
* Begin transplanting **kale** grown from seed, once seedlings are 10cm high. Don’t disturb roots.
* Plant out **sprouting** **broccoli** in well-packed-down soil.
* Pot up **strawberry** runners. Plant out pot-raised **strawberries** now or (ideally) later in the summer.
* Plant out **fennel**, **tomato, peppers**, **sprouts**, **kale**, and **sweet** **potato** ‘slips’, if not done last month.
* Harvest early **potatoes**, **peas**, **broad** **beans**, **onions** raised from seed, **strawberries**, early summer **cauliflowers**, **asparagus**, **garlic**, **sprouting** **broccoli**, **globe** **artichokes**, **baby** **carrots** of early varieties.

**July**

* Feed late-flowering perennials with organic fertiliser.
* Feed **brassicas** with nitrogen-rich or organic liquid feed.
* **Grapes**: feed once with blood/fish/bone or seaweed.
* Feed **blueberries** regularly with tomato food or similar.
* Remove unwanted growth from **trees**, e.g. little shoots appearing at base of trunk.
* Divide **irises** after flowering.
* Cut and dry everlasting flowers.
* Cut back **pansies** and **petunias** hard, and fertilise with potash, to ensure new flowers later in summer.
* Cover **cauliflower** heads.
* Trim **herbs**. Freeze some. Take cuttings of herbs.
* Pinch out tips of **climbing** **beans** once they reach top of support. This will encourage side-shoots to emerge lower down.
* Pinch out top of **tomato** plant once you have four trusses.
* Prune summer **raspberries** after harvest. Cut fruited canes down to the ground. Tie in this year’s new-growing canes.
* Remove old foliage from **strawberries**, as well as straw and runners, once they’ve fruited. Replace strawberry plants after three years.
* Lightly trim **acer** if needed.
* Prune **plums** once fruit has been picked.
* Thin out **apples** and **pears** if needed.
* Prune back **borage**, and it’ll make a comeback with fresh new flowers.
* **Grapes**: keep on pruning side-shoots. Thin fruit if needed. Remove some leaves so fruit is exposed to sun.
* Topiary-prune **bay**. Prune new shoots to a bud facing in the direction of desired growth.
* Plant autumn-flowering bulbs, e.g. **crocuses** and **nerines**.
* Sow autumn/winter **salads**, e.g. **lamb’s** **lettuce** and **pak** **choi**.
* Sow last **French** **beans**, **calabrese,** and **peas** outside.
* Sow spring **cabbage**.
* Sow more **lettuce**. Sow **sprouting** **broccoli**, **carrots**, **spring** **onions, fennel,** and **kale** outdoors.
* Plant out winter **brassicas** (**cabbage**, **sprouts**, **broccoli**, **kale**). Plant out summer/autumn **cauliflower**.
* Finish dibbing-in **leeks** raised in pots or seed beds.
* Earth-up **sprouts** and other **brassicas** if unsteady.
* Take stem-up cuttings of **verbena** **bonariensis**.
* Harvest **French** **beans**, **courgettes**, **carrots**, **onions**, 2nd early **potatoes**, **strawberries**, summer **raspberries**, **blueberries**, **shallots**, **globe** **artichokes**. Dry onions before harvest – lift bulbs and lay on surface in sun.

**August**

* Help plants resist pests by reducing stresses such as lack of water.
* Feed woody container plants with a high-potash fertiliser to encourage ripening of wood.
* Feed plants in pots. Feed at least once per week with a high-potash fertiliser to encourage blooms.
* Mid-Aug, stop feeding **olive** tree.
* **Grapes**: feed once with blood/fish/bone or seaweed. Continue pruning, and remove a few leaves that cover the fruit.
* Feed **blueberries** regularly with tomato food or similar.
* Magnesium deficiency makes **tomato**/**potato** leaves turn yellow between the veins. Spray with a solution of Epsom salts (magnesium sulphate).
* Squash **aphids** by hand! (Or spray with soapy/chilli water.)
* Put down slate or wood on flowerbeds for **slugs** to hide under. Then turn them over so birds can eat them.
* Trim **lavender** by cutting off old flower spikes and about 2.5cm of the leafy growth at the tips of the shoots (to encourage side-shoots).
* When **foxgloves**, **hollyhocks**, **lupines**, and **delphiniums** have flowered, prune off main flower spike as it fades, in order to encourage second flush of blooms. Make the cut just above top of developing side-shoots low down on the plant. If you do this, leave the foliage intact even if it’s tatty.
* Cut overgrown perennials back once flowers are mostly over, and you may get more flowers in autumn. E.g. **astrantia**, **salvia**, **hardy** **geraniums**. Cut all the old foliage back almost to ground level. Then water and feed with a potash-based fertiliser such as tomato food.
* Remove brown-rot-infected **plums**.
* Prune summer **raspberries** if not done last month. Cut this year’s fruiting canes to ground and tie in new canes.
* Once **wisteria** has finished flowering, cut the long, whippy stems of current season’s growth back to six buds.
* Take flower **cuttings** from tender perennials. (Can do this at other times, but if taken later than September, then don’t pot up until spring.) Cut strong, non-flowering, shoots just above a bud, leaving a cutting about 10cm long. Trim lower leaves off and then trim the cutting tip immediately below a leaf joint. Use hormone rooting powder. Insert in cuttings compost (i.e. half compost, half perlite or vermiculite). Cover with polythene. Stand on windowsill. Cuttings root in four weeks. Can then be potted on to winter undercover.
* Sow **Californian** **poppy** between now and October.
* Sow **calendula**. Sow **lettuce**.
* Sow **onion seeds**, overwintering **sprouts**, **spring** **cabbage, spring onions** outdoors.
* Plant out winter/spring **cauliflower**.
* Transplant **kale** and **cauliflower** seedlings.
* Last chance to plant **carrots**. Carrot flies lay eggs this month.
* Transplant **strawberry** runners. (Plant where no strawberries have been for three years.)
* Plant **green** **manure**.
* Harvest **carrots** (last of early fast-growing and first of slower maincrop), 2nd early **potatoes**, **cabbage**, **courgettes**, **fennel**, **French** **beans**, **globe** **artichokes**, **peppers**, last **broad** **beans** (cut down stems and leave roots in ground), **onions** (when foliage turns yellow and drops), **broccoli**, **cauliflower**, **peas**, **tomatoes**, **lettuce**, **plums**, **raspberries**, **apples**, **pears**, **perpetual** **strawberries**, **blueberries**.
* Collect **seeds** from hardy annuals (not F1 hybrids). Harvest/plant **foxglove** seeds.

**September**

* Mulch (because soil moist and still warm).
* Stop feeding container shrubs after one last feed with sulphate of potash or rock potash.
* Turn compost.
* Aerate the **lawn**. Rake thatch.
* Move evergreen shrubs.
* Prune **honeysuckle**.
* Cut down and divide perennials.
* Divide **sedums** because they thrive on being divided every year (or do this in spring).
* As **potato** plants die down, cut down foliage, leaving only 5cm above the ground.
* Remove some **grape** leaves, so that sun can reach the stems.
* When feathery **asparagus** foliage turns yellow, cut it down to 2.5cm above the ground.
* Sow **nigella**, **cornflowers**, **Californian** **poppies** (or next month). Plant **marigolds**/**calendulas** indoors this month or next. (Will attract aphid-eating insects.)
* Sow **winter** **lettuce**.
* Sow **spring** **onions**. (Can overwinter in place.)
* Plant new perennials.
* Plant spring bulbs in grass.
* Plant **garlic**.
* Finish planting new **strawberry** plants.
* Plant out spring **cabbages** this month or next.
* Plant overwinter **onion** sets this month or next.
* Plant new **cranberry** bushes now or Nov or spring, in ericaceous compost.
* Sow **green manure**. (Dig in next spring.)
* Earth up or stake **sprouts**.
* Take cuttings of **verbena** etc to overwinter indoors.
* **Penstemons** may not be hardy, so consider overwintering cuttings indoors.
* Pick autumn **raspberries**. Then leave canes unpruned until late winter or early spring.
* Harvest maincrop **potatoes**, final **onions**, plus **sweetcorn**, **French beans**, **globe artichokes**, **cabbage**, **carrots**, **calabrese**, **peppers**, first **leeks**, **peas**, maincrop **potatoes**, **cauliflowers**, **fennel**, **sprouts**, **courgettes**, first **sweet potatoes**, **tomatoes**, **lettuce**, final **spring onions**, **apples**, **perpetual strawberries**, first **grapes**, **pears**, **cranberries**, **blueberries**, **plums**.
* Collect and save **seeds**.

**October**

* Clean out **nest** **boxes**. Wear surgical gloves and a dust mask. Seal old nest in plastic bag.
* Dig in **green** **manures** that won’t over-winter.
* Empty **compost** bin and mulch garden.
* Mulch **parsnips** with straw.
* Remove solar-powered pond pump.
* Prune tall shrubs.
* Cut back perennials.
* Lift and divide **crocosmias**.
* Fit grease bands to the trunks of **fruit trees**.
* Cut down yellowed **asparagus** foliage to soil level, and **Jerusalem** **artichokes**.
* Plant **tulips** at end of month or next month. Ditto **lily** bulbs.
* Plant **garlic** cloves this month or next.
* Plant overwintering **onion** sets.
* Finish planting new **strawberry** plants.
* Sow early **broad** **beans** outside, this month or next.
* Sow **peas** and early summer **cauliflower** undercover.
* Last chance to transplant **spring** **cabbage**.
* Keep earthing up **sprout** stems. Remove yellow leaves.
* Harvest autumn **cabbage** this month or next. Harvest **parsnips** after a frost or two.
* Harvest last **peas** pre-frost.
* Harvest last of **calabrese**. (**Sprouting** **broccoli** will continue a bit longer.)
* Dig up any remaining **sweet potatoes**.
* Harvest **leeks**. Earth up any that remain in ground.
* Harvest **French** **bean** pods that you left drying for seed.
* Harvest **sprouts**, final **carrots**, final **courgettes**, **fennel**, **autumn cauliflower**, **kalettes**, **lettuce**, **tomatoes**, **apples**, **grapes**, **pears**, autumn **raspberries**, last **perpetual** **strawberries**, **cranberries**, **plums**, final **potatoes**.
* Harvest **herbs**. Dig up roots. Put each in small pot of compost and keep on windowsill.

**November**

* Check **tree** ties and stakes.
* Tie in climbers.
* Dig over veg garden. Dig in manure/compost.
* Bend leaves over **cauliflowers**.
* Net **brassicas** (because of pigeons).
* Remove nets from **fruit** (so that birds can eat pests).
* Lift and divide **brunnera**.
* Start winter-pruning established **apples** and **pears**, removing diseased branches. Then mulch.
* Winter-prune **grapes** from now onwards (to finish by January).
* Reduce **buddleia** stems to reduce wind-rock.
* Cut down top growth of **Jerusalem artichokes**.
* Prune **blueberry** if needed after leaf-fall but don’t prune much. Just thin any overcrowded branches. Remove one or two of the oldest canes, because bush will bear fruit on branches grown the previous year.
* Finish planting **tulips**, before first frost.
* Sow **peas** indoors.
* Sow early overwinter **broad** **beans** in ground or in pots in a coldframe. (Or sow late broad beans in the new year.)
* Plant **garlic** cloves.
* Plant new bare-root **raspberries**.
* Lift **parsnips** after first frost.
* Harvest young leaves at top of **sprouts**. Cook and eat them like spring greens.
* Harvest **sprouts**, **cauliflower**, **Jerusalem** **artichokes**, **carrots**, autumn/winter **cabbage**, **cranberries**, **kalettes**, **leeks**, **lettuce**.
* Harvest full-grown **kale** leaves now and over winter.
* Harvest final **sprouting** **broccoli**.
* **French** **beans** intended for drying may be left on plant until pods dry.

**December**

* Cluster **pots** together as protection from cold.
* Top-dress around **plum** tree with sulphate of potash.
* If haven’t already, prune **wisteria**, **vines**, and **acers**.
* Examine **apple** tree to work out which branches are new and fruiting spurs. (See notes under pruning for April.)
* **Grape** vine: remove awkward, damaged, or unproductive stems.
* Winter-prune **apple** and **pear**. Check for canker.
* Renew grease bands on **fruit** **trees** if needed.
* Can prune **blueberries** now or next two months, once leaves fallen. See plant notes for details.
* Plant **garlic**.
* Harvest **celeriac**, **Jerusalem** **artichoke**, **kale**, **cauliflower**, **carrots**, **sprouts**, **leeks, kalettes**, **parsnips**.
* **Olives** may finally be ripe this month or next.

**General info**

* Remove diseased leaves/fruits asap so that the disease doesn’t spread. Destroy rather than putting in compost.
* Have a nursery bed where you grow seedlings before moving them into final positions.
* Spray aphids with a solution of chopped chillies and washing-up liquid.

***Crop rotation***

YEAR ONE: Peas, beans, peppers, broad beans, pumpkins, okra, sweetcorn, tomatoes. Leave roots of peas/beans in soil afterwards as they fix nitrogen.

YEAR TWO: Nitrogen-hungry brassicas. Sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, kale, radishes, broccoli.

YEAR THREE: Non-nitrogen-hungry crops. Carrots, parsnips, Jerusalem artichokes, potatoes, sweet potatoes, garlic, leeks, shallots, onions, lettuce, salad.

***Chelsea Chop***

Limits plant size, flowers are later and smaller but more numerous. Reduces sprawling. Use on late-flowering perennials, e.g. **helenium**, **achillea**, **lavender**, **phlox**, **penstemon**, tall **campanulas**, **buddleia**, **brunnera** **macrophylla** if hasn’t set seed yet, upright sedums. Cut by a third to a half, enabling growth of side-shoots. Use cuttings to grow new plants. Can cut only some stems/clumps (e.g. half) if you want a mix of later and earlier flowering. Make sloping cuts just above leaf joints. Cut more for very leggy plants. The later you cut, the later the blooms will appear.

***Types of fertiliser***

NB: Fertilisers have no effect on soil structure or fertility. They are not a substitute for mulches or soil conditioners.

Fertilisers contain concentrated sources of nutrients in chemical (i.e. synthesised) or organic (derived from plants/animals) form. Inorganic fertilisers are usually more concentrated and faster acting than organic fertilisers. Inorganic products include Growmore, Miracle-Gro, Phostrogen, Sulphate of Ammonia, Sulphate of Potash, and Tomorite. Organic products include seaweed, blood/fish/bone, poultry manure pellets, comfrey tea.

Controlled-release fertilisers are generally inorganic. Coated with resin to reduce speed that nutrients are released. Released faster in warmer weather when plant needs are greater.

Slow-release fertilisers are usually organic.

Most are based on three major nutrients:-

* Nitrogen – for leaves. E.g. poultry manure pellets, sulphate of ammonia.
* Phosphorus – for roots and shoots.
* Potassium – for flowers, fruits, and general hardiness. Potash. Tomato feed.

All fertilisers should quote their N:P:K ratio on the package.

***Spent compost***

* Sift to remove roots then spread over lawn and brush it in, ideally just after a mow and before rain.
* Grow carrots (that like low-nutrient, un-stoney soil).
* Use as mulch.
* Use in bottom half of big containers.
* Put some in compost bin to introduce healthy organisms.
* Earth up potatoes.

**Plant info**

***Asparagus***

* Can produce for 20 years.
* Harvest April and May.
* Feed in March AND after cropping.
* Cut down yellowing foliage in autumn and spread mulch of compost/manure.

***Astrantia***

* Can cope with shade.
* Divide large clumps in spring.

***Bay***

* Needs soil-based compost.
* Don’t over-water. Use pot feet.
* Add slow-release fertiliser granules from mid-spring to late summer.
* Repot every two years in spring.
* Topiary-trained bay are trimmed in summer. Prune new shoots to a bud facing in the direction of desired growth. Otherwise, just cut back to a lower leaf or bud in spring or summer. Remove any leaf tips damaged by winter weather by lightly pruning in late spring. Mature bay can tolerate hard pruning, but are slow to recover. Do it over two or three years in late spring.

***Blueberries***

* Stand pot on feet.
* Apply tomato food or other potash food throughout growing season. Net to prevent birds.
* Don’t prune much.
* Blueberries produce fruit on branches produced the previous year, so each year remove one or two of the oldest canes to make space.
* Protect from extreme cold.
* Acid soil.
* Trim between December and March.
* Net.
* Mulch in spring with pine needles or leaf mould.

***Borage***

* Can eat most parts of plant, eg put blue flowers on salads, or use leaves to make tea.
* Plant with strawberries (or veg) to encourage pollination and bigger crops. Very useful for attracting pollinators in general.
* Also good for attracting insects to any plant that needs pest-control. Plant with cabbages etc to reduce problems with cabbage whites!!!
* Allow to go to seed and self-sow.
* Dislikes transplanting.
* Sow in spring once danger of frost has gone, then again in summer to ensure long supply of flowers.

***Broad beans***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| Sow indoors | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sow undercover | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | • | • |  |
| Sow outdoors |  | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |  | • | • |  |
| Plant out |  |  | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Harvest |  |  |  |  |  | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |

* As soon as the first tiny pods appear, pinch out top growing shoot. This will enable heavier crop and reduce pest risk.

***Broccoli (calabrese and sprouting broccoli)***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Type | Task | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| Calabrese | Sow outdoors |  |  | • | • | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |
| Harvest |  |  |  |  |  | • | • | • | • | • |  |  |
| Sprouting | Sow indoors |  | • | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sow outdoors |  |  | • | • | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |
| Transplant undercover |  |  | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Plant out |  |  |  |  | • | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |
| Harvest | • | • | • | • |  | • | • | • | • | • | • | • |

* Calabrese doesn’t like being transplanted.
* Calabrese: cut main shoot when ready to eat. Then will have second harvest from side shoots.
* Sprouting: the more you pick, the more it grows.

***Brunnera***

* Lift and divide in late autumn.

***Cabbages***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Type | Task | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| Spring | Sow |  |  |  |  |  |  | • | • |  |  |  |  |
| Plant out |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | • | • |  |  |
| Harvest |  |  | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Summer/ autumn/ red | Sow |  |  | • (undercover) | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Plant out |  |  |  |  | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Harvest |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | • | • | • | • |  |
| Winter | Sow |  |  |  | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Plant out |  |  |  |  |  | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |
| Harvest | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | • | • |

* Use brassica collars when you plant out. Net.
* Earth up stems.

***Calendulas***

* Attract hoverflies, which eat aphids.
* Sow outdoors, Mar to May for flowers June to Sep, OR Aug to Sep for flowers May to Jul.

***Californian poppies***

* Best type = ‘Carmine King’.
* Sow outdoors March to May, or August to October.

***Carrots***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| Sow undercover |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sow outdoors |  |  |  | • | • | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |
| Harvest |  |  |  |  |  | • | • | • | • | • | • | • |

* Early vs maincrop.
* Sow 1-2cm deep, 2.5cm apart, thinning to 10cm apart.
* When thinning, remove seedlings carefully, to avoid releasing the scent that attracts carrot fly.
* Earlies may be ready just 7 weeks after sowing. Maincrop takes 10-11 weeks.

***Cauliflower***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| Early summer | Sow indoors | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sow undercover |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | • |  |  |
| Plant out |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Harvest |  |  |  |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Summer/ autumn | Sow indoors |  |  | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sow undercover |  |  | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Plant out |  |  |  |  | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |
| Harvest |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | • | • | • | • |  |
| Winter/ spring | Sow |  |  |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Plant out |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |
| Harvest | • | • | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  | • |

* Require VERY regular watering.
* Give plants plenty of space. Use nets and collars.
* Don’t plant where they’ve been grown within the last three years.

***Celeriac***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| Sow indoors |  |  | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Plant out |  |  |  |  | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Harvest | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |  | • | • | • | • |

* 30cm apart. Slow-growing.

***Courgette***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| Sow indoors |  |  |  | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sow outdoors |  |  |  |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Plant out |  |  |  |  | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Harvest |  |  |  |  |  |  | • | • | • | • |  |  |

* Susceptible to frost.

***Dill***

* Don’t grow near fennel, or they’ll cross-pollinate.
* Sow in place (because it dislikes disturbance) between May and June.

***(Florence) fennel***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| Sow indoors |  |  | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sow outdoors |  |  |  |  | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |
| Plant out |  |  |  |  | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Harvest |  |  |  |  |  | • | • | • | • | • |  |  |

* 2.5cm deep, 30cm apart. Sow 3 seeds together and snip some if they all germinate.
* Earth up around stems.
* Don’t grow near dill or they’ll cross-pollinate.

***Foxgloves***

* Happy in even the deepest shade.
* Brilliant for pollinators.
* Sow seeds as they ripen in autumn, or sow in Feb/March. If autumn-sown ones are still small, keep them in pots until the spring. They can be overwintered under glass. Or can sow as early as January in a warm (15-18˚) greenhouse – which may enable plants to flower in their first year. Or can be sown in place and then thinned out.
* Can buy seed for perennial foxgloves.
* They germinate in response to light, so do NOT cover seed that you sow.

***French (climbing) beans***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| Sow indoors |  |  |  | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sow undercover |  |  |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sow outdoors |  |  |  |  | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |
| Plant out |  |  |  |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Harvest |  |  |  |  |  |  | • | • | • | • | • |  |

* Likes sun. Hates wind.
* Pinch out growing tips once they reach top of support, to enable more productive growth lower down.

***Garlic***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| Plant out | (•) | (•) | (•) |  |  |  |  |  |  | • | • | (•) |
| Harvest |  |  |  |  | • | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |

* Split bulbs into cloves and plant each just below the surface.
* October and November are best months for planting, because end result will be bigger bulbs.

***Geum***

* Very amenable to being divided.
* Separate each rosette and pot it individually, having trimmed back its roots to promote the formation of new feeding roots.

***Globe artichokes***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| Sow indoors |  | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Plant out |  |  |  | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Plant ‘offsets’ |  |  |  | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Harvest |  |  |  |  | • | • | • | • | • |  |  |  |

* Plants last 3-4 years.
* In plant’s first year, cut off the main flowerhead as soon as it appears. This stimulates growth.
* In autumn, cut out dead foliage and cover with straw or bracken for winter.
* Mulch or feed in spring.

***Grape vines***

* Feed lots, every 4 weeks in growing season, with either blood, fish and bone, or with liquid seaweed. Mulch in spring/summer.
* 3rd year – 3 bunches. 4th year – 5 bunches. 5th year+ - unlimited.
* Winter-prune from November to January. Remove awkward or unproductive stems.
* In September, remove some leaves so sun can reach fruit and stems.
* Summer-prune from May to July.
* Harvest September to October.

***Honeysuckle***

* Prune July-September. (Birds use it for shelter/nests, so later may be best.)
* Cut back all the dead wood (and more) in early spring.

***Jerusalem artichokes***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| Plant tubers outdoors |  | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Harvest | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | • | • |

* Grows up to 3m in height!
* Growing plants need support. Earth up and then stake them.
* In July or August, cut them down to 1.5m and remove flowers.
* Cut yellowed foliage down to ground in autumn.

***Kale***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| Sow indoors |  |  |  | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sow outdoors |  |  |  |  | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |
| Plant out |  |  |  |  |  | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |
| Harvest | • | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  | • | • |

* Very easy to grow, but is a brassica so does need netting.

***Kalettes***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| Sow indoors |  | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sow outdoors |  |  | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Harvest | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  | • | • | • |

* The most delicious vegetable that ever vegetabled.

***Lavender***

* Needs dead-heading.

***Leeks***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| Sow indoors | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sow outdoors |  |  | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Plant out |  |  |  |  | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |
| Harvest | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |  | • | • | • | • |

* Dib them in and earth up to keep light off stems.
* Don’t plant where you’ve grown onions within the last two years.

***Lettuce***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| Sow indoors |  | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sow undercover |  |  | • | • |  |  |  |  | • |  |  |  |
| Sow outdoors |  |  |  | • | • | • | • | • | • |  |  |  |
| Plant out |  |  |  | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Harvest |  |  | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • |  |

* Don’t grow where you’ve grown them within the last three years.
* Regular watering prevents bolting.
* Sow seeds late in the day during summer so they’re not too hot.

***Marigolds/calendulas***

* Attract aphid-eating insects.

***Marjoram***

* Buy as plant not seeds.

***Olive trees***

* Sandy or loamy compost. Plant close to sunny wall.
* Will shed leaves if waterlogged. Use pot feet for drainage.
* Feed little and often from early spring to mid-Aug to encourage healthy growth and lots of fruit. Blood fish and bone in early spring.
* Mulch with well-rotted manure every other year.
* Slow-growing so don’t prune brutally.
* Remove dead or overcrowded branches in late spring so light can reach the centre of the tree.
* Pinch out tips of young shoots so they’ll develop a branching shape.
* Need two months of temps less than 10˚ to produce flowers and fruit.
* See online for how to prepare fruit for eating. Fruit from 3-5 years. Ripe by mid-winter.
* Don’t worry about leaf-drop in spring. Olive sheds older leaves to grow new ones.

***Onions***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| Sow indoors | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sow outdoors |  |  | • | • |  |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |
| Transplant |  |  | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Plant sets outdoors |  |  | • | • |  |  |  |  | • | • |  |  |
| Harvest |  |  |  |  |  | • | • | • | • |  |  |  |

* Leave 3-yr gap before planting again in same place.
* Multisow in clumps of 4 to make efficient use of space.
* Will rot if too wet. Don’t over-water.
* Harvest when leaves turn yellow and collapse. Lift bulbs and lay on side in sun for two days.

***Parsnips***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| Sow outdoors |  |  | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Harvest | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  | • | • | • |

* Like slightly acid soil.
* Sow 2-3 seeds at a time, 2cm deep.
* Don’t move them. They hate being transplanted.

***Peas, including mangetout and sugarsnap***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| Sow indoors | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | • |  |
| Sow undercover |  | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | • |  |  |
| Sow outdoors |  |  | • | • | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |
| Plant out |  |  | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Harvest |  |  |  |  |  | • | • | • | • | • |  |  |

* Dislike too wet or too hot.
* Support system essential. Built once first tendrils appear.
* Pinch out growing shoot at top of plant once first pods ready (and add the shoots to salads). This stimulates the growth of more pods.

***Peppers***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| Sow indoors |  |  | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Plant out |  |  |  |  | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Harvest |  |  |  |  |  |  | • | • | • | • |  |  |

* Need heat and humidity.
* Need long growing season.

***Plums***

* Prune between April and August, but NEVER in winter.

***Poppy (opium)***

* Good for pollinators.

***Potatoes***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| Chit | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Plant |  |  | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Harvest |  |  |  |  |  | • | • | • | • |  |  |  |

* Like slightly acid soil.
* Don’t plant where you’ve had potatoes/onions/root crops last year. Ideally grow where you’ve had peas/beans.
* Plant 6 inches deep.
* Harvest after flowers appear. Can cut down foliage.

***Pulmonaria (lungwort)***

* Excellent plant for full shade.
* Flowers from late winter.

***Raspberries***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Type | Task | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| Summer | Plant | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | • | • |
| Prune |  | • |  |  |  |  | • | • |  |  |  |  |
| Harvest |  |  |  |  |  |  | • | • |  |  |  |  |
| Autumn | Plant | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | • | • |
| Prune |  | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Harvest |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | • | • | • | • |  |

* Summer-fruiting: Cut all canes that bore fruit down to ground once harvesting is done. Tie in new canes. In following Feb, trim tops of canes to just above a bud.
* Autumn-fruiting: Cut all last year’s canes down to ground in Feb or Mar.

***Rosemary***

* Prune in spring.

***Sage***

* Cut back plants in spring. Pinch out growing shoots in summer to keep bushes compact.

***Spring onions***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| Sow outdoors |  |  | • | • | • | • | • | • | • |  |  |  |
| Harvest |  |  | • | • | • | • | • | • | • |  |  |  |

* Begin harvesting when 15cm high.

***Sprouts***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| Sow indoors |  | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sow outdoors |  |  |  | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Plant out |  |  |  |  | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |
| Harvest | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |  | • | • | • | • |

* Feed in summer with nitrogenous fertiliser or organic liquid feed.
* Collars.
* Harvest from bottom upwards.

***Strawberries***

* Replace every three or four years, in a fresh site.
* Plant pot-grown bare-root runners between March and October, although between July and September is best. Don’t allow March to June plantings to fruit in their first year.
* Snip off runners unless you’re going to use them.
* Net.
* In spring and after cropping remove dead/diseased/damaged leaves.

***Sweet potatoes***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| Sow indoors |  |  | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Transplant |  |  |  |  | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Plant slips out |  |  |  |  | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Harvest |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | • | • |  |  |

* Related to bindweed!
* Plant 5-8cm deep, 25-30cm apart. Plant in earthed-up ridges.
* Need LOTS of water, so sink plastic bottles into the ground.
* Harvest when leaves start to go yellow.

***Tarragon***

* Mulch plants with straw over winter, or move inside greenhouse. Cut them down low in time for winter.
* Use French tarragon, NOT Russian.
* Can’t really grow French from seed, so buy a plant then use root division or take cuttings to create a new plant every three years.
* If grown in pot, need quite large one as it can grow well over 1m tall.

***Thyme***

* Buy as plant, not seeds.

***Tomatoes***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| Sow indoors |  | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Plant out |  |  |  |  | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Harvest |  |  |  |  |  |  | • | • | • | • |  |  |

* Seedlings are ready for hardening off and planting out when first flowers form.
* Avoid frost.
* Pinch out tip once there are four or five trusses.

***Valerian***

* Good for pollinators.
* Can grow in walls.

***Wisteria***

* Needs potassium feed in spring.
* Prune in late summer after flowering (cut long whippy stems of current season’s growth back to 6 buds), AND in mid-winter (cut those same stems back to 2 buds).

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| Acer | • | • |  | • |  | • | • |  |  |  |  | • |
| Achillea |  |  |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Agastache |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Apple | • | • | • | • | • | • | • |  |  |  | • | • |
| Aquilegia |  |  |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Artichoke (g) |  | • | • | • | • |  | • |  |  |  |  |  |
| Artichoke (j) |  | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |  | • | • |  |
| Asparagus |  |  | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • |  |  |
| Astrantia |  |  |  | • |  |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |
| Bay |  |  |  | • | • |  | • |  |  |  |  |  |
| Beans (broad) | • | • | • | • | • |  |  |  |  | • | • |  |
| Beans (Fr/cl) |  |  |  | • | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |
| Biennials |  |  |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Birch |  |  |  | • |  | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Blueberry |  |  | • | • | • | • | • | • |  |  | • | • |
| Borage |  |  |  |  | • |  | • |  |  |  |  |  |
| Broccoli (calab) |  | • | • | • | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |
| Broccoli (sprou) |  | • | • | • | • | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |
| Brunnera |  |  |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |  | • |  |
| Buddleia |  |  | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |  | • |  |
| Bullbs | • |  |  | • | • | • | • |  | • |  |  |  |
| Cabbage |  |  | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • |  |  |
| Calendula |  |  | • | • | • |  |  | • | • |  |  |  |
| Campanula |  |  |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Carrots |  |  | • | • | • | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |
| Cauliflower | • |  | • | • | • | • | • | • |  | • |  |  |
| Celeriac |  |  | • | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Chelsea chop |  |  |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Clematis |  | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Clem montana |  |  |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Climbers | • |  | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |  | • |  |
| Coriander |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cornflower |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | • |  |  |  |
| Courgette |  |  |  | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Crocosmia |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | • |  |  |
| Daylily |  |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Delphinium |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |
| Dill |  |  |  | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Fennel |  |  | • | • | • | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |
| Ferns |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Forget-me-not |  |  |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Foxglove | • | • | • |  | • |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |
| Garlic |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |  | • | • | • |  |
| Geranium h |  |  |  | • |  |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |
| Geum |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Globe thistle |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Grapes | • |  |  | • | • | • | • | • | • |  |  | • |
| Grass (lawn) | • |  | • |  |  |  |  |  | • |  |  |  |
| Grass (ornam) |  |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Green manure |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | • | • | • |  |  |
|  | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| Hanging basket |  |  |  |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hebe |  |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Helenium |  |  |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hellebore |  |  |  |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Herbs |  |  | • |  | • | • | • |  |  | • |  |  |
| Hollyhock |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |
| Honeysuckle |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |  | • |  |  |  |
| Hosta |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| House plants |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Iris |  |  |  |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Kale |  |  |  | • | • | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |
| Kalettes |  | • | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lavender |  |  |  | • | • |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |
| Lawn | • |  | • |  |  |  |  |  | • |  |  |  |
| Leeks | • | • | • | • | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lettuce |  | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • |  |  |  |
| Lily |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | • |  |  |
| Lupin |  |  |  | • |  |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |
| Marjoram |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Marigold |  |  |  |  | • |  |  |  | • |  |  |  |
| Nest box |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | • |  |  |
| Nigella |  |  |  | • |  |  |  |  | • |  |  |  |
| Olive |  |  | • |  | • | • | • | • |  |  |  | • |
| Onion | • | • | • | • |  |  | • | • | • | • |  |  |
| Onion (spring) |  |  | • | • | • | • | • | • | • |  |  |  |
| Pansy |  |  |  |  | • |  | • |  |  |  |  |  |
| Parsley |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Parsnip |  |  | • | • |  |  |  |  |  | • | • |  |
| Pea | • | • | • | • | • | • |  |  |  | • | • |  |
| Pear | • | • | • |  |  | • | • |  |  |  | • | • |
| Penstamon |  |  |  |  | • |  |  |  | • |  |  |  |
| Peppers |  |  | • | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Petunia |  |  |  |  |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |  |
| Phlox |  |  |  | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Plum |  | • |  | • | • | • | • | • |  |  |  | • |
| Poppy (calif) |  |  | • | • | • |  |  | • | • |  |  |  |
| Poppy(oriental) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Pots | • | • | • |  |  |  |  | • | • |  |  |  |
| Potato | • | • | • | • | • |  | • | • | • | • |  |  |
| Primula |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Pulmonaria |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Pyracantha |  |  |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Raspberries |  | • |  |  | • | • | • | • | • |  | • |  |
| Rosemary |  |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sage |  |  |  |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Salvia |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |
| Sedum |  | • |  |  |  |  |  |  | • |  |  |  |
| Seeds | • |  |  |  |  |  |  | • | • |  |  |  |
| Shallots |  | • | • |  |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |  |
| Silver birch |  |  |  | • |  | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |
| Snowdrops |  | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Spring onion |  |  | • | • | • | • | • | • | • |  |  |  |
|  | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| Sprouts |  | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • |  |
| Strawberries |  |  |  | • | • | • | • | • | • | • |  |  |
| Sweet potato |  |  |  |  | • | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sweet williams |  |  |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Thistle (globe) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Tomato |  | • | • | • | • | • | • | • |  |  |  |  |
| Tulip |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | • | • |  |
| Verbena bonari |  |  |  |  |  |  | • |  | • |  |  |  |
| Virginia creeper |  | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Water-lily |  |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Wildflowers |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Winter pansy |  |  |  |  | • |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Wisteria | • |  |  | • |  |  |  | • |  |  |  | • |