



A Rough Guide to What to Sow by Month



For more precise instructions please consult individual seed packets

SEPTEMBER

Christmas Potatoes, Alpine Strawberry & Strawberry Runners, Winter Radish, Autumn Onions, Garlic, Winter Lettuce, Microgreens.

OCTOBER

Winter Lettuce, Rhubarb, Raspberry Family, Round peas, Broad Beans, Microgreens.

NOVEMBER

Winter Lettuce, Round Peas, Broad Beans, Plant Fruit Trees, Microgreens.

DECEMBER

Plant Fruit Trees, Microgreens.

JANUARY

Plant Fruit Trees, late garlic, early peas, Leeks (indoors), Microgreens.

FEBRUARY

Plant Fruit Trees, late Garlic, early Peas, chit First Early Potatoes, chit Second Early Potatoes, Tomato (indoors), Leeks (indoors), Cut & Come Again Salad, Broad Beans, Chilli (indoors), Peppers (indoors), Parsnips, Onions, Microgreens.

MARCH

Plant Fruit Trees, late Garlic, early Peas, First Early Potatoes, Second Early Potatoes, Tomato (indoors), Leeks (indoors), Cut & Come Again Salad, Broad Beans, Chilli (indoors), Peppers (indoors), Parsnips, Onions, chit Maincrop Potatoes, Peas, Mangetout, Sugar Snaps, Early Turnips, Calabrese, Summer Cabbage (protected), Beetroot, Courgette (indoors), Microgreens.

APRIL

Tomato (indoors), Leeks (indoors), Cut & Come Again Salad, Broad Beans, Maincrop Potatoes, Peas, Mangetout, Sugar Snaps, Turnips, Beetroot, Courgette (indoors), Early Carrots, Chard, Melons (indoors), Sweetcorn (indoors), Pumpkins (indoors), Winter Cabbage, Sprouting Broccoli, Cucumber, Runner Beans, Microgreens.

MAY

Cut & Come Again Salad, Peas, Mangetout, Sugar Snaps, Turnips, Chard, Sweetcorn, Pumpkins, Winter Cabbage, Sprouting Broccoli, Cucumber, Runner Beans, French Beans, Maincrop Carrots, Microgreens.

JUNE

Cut & Come Again Salad, Peas, Mangetout, Sugar Snaps, , Turnips, Chard, Sprouting Broccoli, Runner Beans, French Beans, Maincrop Carrots, Microgreens.

JULY

Cut & Come Again Salad, Chard, Spring Cabbage, Microgreens.

AUGUST

Chit Christmas Potatoes.



What to Sow by Term



Autumn Term – September-December

Fruit/Vegetable	When to sow	When to Harvest	Considerations for schools	Notes
Alpine, Woodland or Wild strawberries	Plant runners after they have fruited and before the frosts.	June - August	These are great for shady places and once you have them they keep multiplying. They are very resilient and will survive even the coldest winter.	These are hard to source and best taken from other people's gardens but even if you only start off with one plant, they will multiply rapidly.
Strawberry Runners	As above	May - June		Good all rounder mid season cropping varieties with good disease resistance are Pegasus & Alice
Potatoes for Christmas dinner	Late August/early September in containers/bags	December	Buy them by early August and start chitting immediately	Choose second crop autumn potatoes. Carlingford is the most popular but Charlotte & Maris Peer are also good. Order early to avoid disappointment!
Winter Radish	Early September	3-5 months later	They are an excellent way to introduce children to gardening	Try Mino Early, a Japanese Daikon radish. Great for stir fries or use grated raw in salads http://www.unwins.co.uk/radish-mooli-seeds-pid5981.html
Onions	September	June		Try Senshyu and Radar
Garlic	September	June-August		Try 'Early Wight', 'Purple Wight', 'Solent Wight', 'Arno', 'Germidour', and 'Cristo'.
Winter Lettuce	September – mid November	Harvest leaves from cut-and-come again lettuces when plants are about 5cm (2in) high, or allow the plants to grow to about 15cm and cut the whole head off leaving a 3cm (1in) stump - a new plant should soon re-sprout.		Lettuce 'Valdor', Texsel Greens - also known as Ethiopian greens 'Golden Purslane'
Rhubarb	October	Allow it to establish for a year before taking your first harvest from May to August.		Rhubarb should be divided every five or six years during winter, when dormant.

Raspberry family	October	September – first frosts	Plant autumn raspberries rather than summer varieties as they fruit during the summer holidays. They are also generally much easier to care for.	Prune by cutting the old canes back to the ground December – February. Try Autumn Bliss which is shorter than most and you may be able to get away without supports. Also try Polka & Joan J which came top for taste & yield in Which? Trials.
Peas	Oct/Nov	May/June		Try round/smooth peas Feltham First and Meteor
Broad Beans	Oct/Nov	May - June		Aquadulce
Microgreens	All year	Harvest when they've developed their first set of true leaves which is generally about ten days to two weeks after planting.	Sow inside on a sunny windowsill throughout the year.	Try any lettuce, salad green, or herb such as mustard, kale, beetroot, radish, watercress, mizuna, or cabbage
Fruit trees	November- Feb/March (do not plant if ground is frozen)	3 – 5 years after planting	You need to be aware of the potential size your tree will grow to and whether it's self-fertilising. If space is an issue you could try training your tree along a wall or fence. If your tree is not self fertile you will need another one to produce any fruit.	Try apple, pear, plum, fig and medlar trees. Gloucestershire has over 178 varieties local apple, 127 varieties of pear & 16 varieties of plum! See www.gloucestershireorchardgroup.org.uk For fig & medlar, try <i>Ficus carica</i> 'Brown Turkey' -self-fertile, ideal for training along a wall. It fruits from August to September. Medlar, <i>Mespilus germanica</i> 'Royal Medlar', is self-fertile with dessert fruit from November.



What to Sow by Term

Spring Term – January–April

Fruit/Vegetable	When to sow	When to Harvest	Considerations for schools	Notes
Late Garlic	January/ February	June/August Once the leaves have turned yellow.		Garlic is best planted before Christmas but still possible until February
Peas	Early (smooth) types under cloches Jan/Feb	Smooth peas are older types and need to be picked very early to ensure they retain their sweetness.	Their roots don't like being disturbed so plant in pots that can put straight into ground e.g. toilet roll inners. See CLEAPSS website for info on using loo roll inners.	Much more tolerant of cooler conditions so can be planted much earlier. Meteor still fine. For more unusual varieties try. www.realseeds.co.uk
1 st Early Potatoes	Chit Feb, sow March	June – September (approx 90 days after planting)	Try sourcing your seed potatoes from a Potato Day Event in Jan- Feb. For some events near you try www.potato-days.net . In Stroud area try http://stroudpotatoday.blogspot.co.uk	Try Duke of York, it fairs well in taste tests but unfortunately is susceptible to disease
2 nd Early Potatoes	Chit Feb, sow March	June – September (approx 90 days after planting)		Try Charlotte, again does well in taste tests but again susceptible to disease
Tomato	Indoors – Feb-April Harden off & plant out from early June	August - October	There are two main types of tomato plants – Bush & Cordon. Cordons are usually trained up some support and need the side shoots pinched out, while bush types develop their side shoots and spread out.	Try blight resistant outdoor type Ferline. Bush types – Tumbler is suited to growing in baskets & Totem is compact if space is an issue
Leeks	Seeds - Jan/Feb indoors Outdoors March/April	Musselborough Dec - April	If you miss the seed sowing period you can buy ready grown plants to plant out in May - July	Try Musselborough
Summer salad/Cut & come again	Feb - August	April – September When the leaves are of an edible size, use	This is a really easy, speedy crop. As the seeds are normally so small, watering the soil before sowing will help ensure seeds are in close contact with moist soil,	Try any leafy vegetable like Amaranth, basil, beetroot, chicory, coriander, chard, corn salad, dandelion, endive, komatsuma, land cress, leaf celery, lettuce, mizuna, mustard, pak choi,

Summer salad/Cut & come again cont'd		scissors to snip off a few from each plant. Avoid damaging the central growing point.	rather than watering the row afterwards For an early winter crop: sow outdoors in early August and cover the plants with closed cloches in late September.	parsley, purslane, radicchio, red kale, rocket, sorrel and spinach, Mixed Leaves
Broad Beans	February - April	June - September		Aquadulce should still be fine
Chilli Peppers	February/ March Indoors	June - October	They can't be grown outside but are ideal for a greenhouse or windowsill. Their heat is contained in the oil in the seeds. Always deseed them! Once you have handled them, wash your hands before touching your eyes or tender skin to prevent burning. Remember also that the heat gets more intense towards the shoulder.	Try mild varieties like Anaheim & Gorria. A good source for seeds is www.simpsonsseeds.co.uk
Sweet Peppers	Feb/March	June - October	To grow in the UK you need really early varieties. They need heat to germinate (28 - 38°C.) Try a warm airing cupboard or sunny windowsill. Once germinated, the seedlings will grow on at lower temperatures.	Try Gypsy & Lipstick
Parsnips	Feb/March		Parsnip is very easy to save seed from, and you'll get much better seed than you can buy because it doesn't keep or store well.	Try the Student, a variety first discovered in the Cotswolds or 'Tender & True'
Onions	Feb/March			Try Red Baron, Sturon
Peas come in two types – shelling (in which you eat the shelled peas) & mange tout (in which you eat the whole pod)				
Peas - shelling	First earlies March to early June Second earlies & maincrop March - June	Earlies take around 12 weeks, second earlies take 14 weeks and maincrops take 16 weeks.	Require a sunny, nutrient-rich, moisture-retentive site. So need to incorporate well rotted compost or manure. You will need canes & netting for support. The pea moth is active mid-May to mid-June so if have peas flowering at that time, may need to cover with fleece.	First Earlies - Kelvedon Wonder Second Earlies - Early Onward Maincrop (wrinkled) – Tall Telephone. Balmoral is a late maincrop which is ready to harvest Sept/Oct so should avoid holidays.

Mangetout	March - June	12-13 weeks after sowing just as the peas inside start to form	Plant as soon as possible to avoid cropping over the holidays.	Try Pea 'Oregon sugar pod' A rare yellow variety 'Golden Sweet' from www.realseeds.co.uk
Sugar snap	March - June	Same as above	Same as above	Sugar Ann – early cropping.
Turnip	March – earlies Otherwise April - June	Earlies can be ready for harvest 6-7 weeks after sowing! Otherwise Autumn/ winter	Maincrop varieties need planting in July/August so may not be practical for growing in schools	Try Purple Top Milan
Calabrese	March	June – October	Calabrese will mature the same year as sown so won't tie up space as long as sprouting types. It doesn't like being transplanted so sow in final position. It prefers a heavy fertile soil in full sun or semi-shade.	The words 'broccoli' and 'calabrese' are different varieties of the same vegetable! Generally, Calabrese produces green heads whereas broccoli produces purple or white heads. Try Fiesta, it's a later cropping variety so should avoid the holidays.
Summer Cabbage	March under protection, Plant out in May	July - October	Avoid the temptation to grow too many. Just 12 cabbages in a year will be more than enough! Cabbages need soil rich in nutrients. The main period of harvesting is Aug-Sept so may not be suitable if there isn't any access to the garden in the holidays	Usually these are ball headed (drumhead) varieties. Try 'Kilaxy' Or grow red cabbage & treat in the same way
Maincrop potatoes	Chit after Half Term plant after Easter	About 20 weeks after sowing	If you are looking for something different, why not try blue fleshed Salad Blue Potatoes? Not blight resistant. www.plantsbypost.com www.thompson-morgan.com/seeds/Purple%20Potatoes	Try blight resistant 'Sárpo Mira', (pronounced "sharpo") a red-skinned maincrop which crops well even in poor soil, has good slug resistance and stores for months. However, it is not considered to be as tasty as some other varieties.
Beetroot	March/April	June – October June sown crops can be left in the ground to fully mature Lift them in October	Beetroot are really easy to grow and the leaves can also be eaten in salads. They like fertile soil so add compost or manure. Harvest once they reach the size of a golf ball.	Try Boltardy or Pablo awarded RHS 'Award of Garden Merit'. It is a F1 hybrid so won't be able to save the seeds.

Courgette	March – May indoors	June - October	Sow seeds on their side in pots (to avoid them rotting) & move plants to their final site in full sun, when all risk of frost has passed. Allow up to 90cm between plants. A couple of plants should be enough.	Try 'Defender,' Gardening Which? Best buy. It also has resistance to Cucumber Mosaic Virus. If space is an issue, try 'Supremo.' It is also resistant to Cucumber Mosaic Virus. RHS Award of Garden Merit winner. Is an F1 so is self fertile.
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What to Sow by Term



Summer Term – April-July

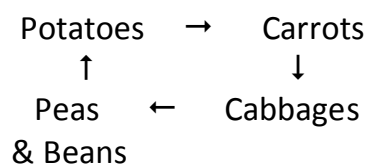
Fruit/Vegetable	When to sow	When to Harvest	Considerations for schools	Notes
Carrot (Earlies)	April	Earlies - Mid July to August	As earlies crop during the holidays it might be better to go for Main crop. See below. Don't feed carrots, this will only encourage the greenery at the expense of the carrot growth.	Try Suttons Carrot Ideal Speedy Veg - A super-fast-maturing Nantes type carrot. Ready to eat in 6-12 weeks.
Chard (Also known as leaf beets)	April - July	August – following June	Needs an open sunny site in rich, moisture-retentive free-draining soil, although it can tolerate some shade in summer. If growing as cut & come again sow thinly and when conditions are warm to avoid mildews. If you are leaving the plants to over winter you will need to protect them with fleece. Cut off the outer leaves first when they are young and tender, working towards the centre	Try 'Bright lights' & Rainbow chard– has a range of attractive coloured stems
Melons	April, plant out in June		Choose an outdoor variety and sow seed in pots somewhere warm. Grow plants to a good size before planting outside, after the last frost date. Plant marigolds to encourage pollinators. Might be tricky to grow. For more experienced gardeners.	In Which? Trials the two that performed the best were 'Magenta' & 'Small Shining Light'. Another popular old variety to try is Blenheim Orange.
Sweetcorn	Mid April (indoors) Mid May (outdoors)	August/ September (be aware may crop in the holidays)	Sweet corn needs a sheltered, sunny spot with well-drained soil. It pollinates best when sown in a block. A minimum block of	Choose an early/middle variety. Swift and Lark are popular varieties. As they take up quite a lot of space, other

Sweetcorn cont'd			1.2m (4 ft) square is recommended. Freshly picked sweet corn is at its' tastiest because the sugar in it quickly turns to starch reducing the flavour after only a day or so.	crops such as salad can be grown in between.
Pumpkin	Indoors April/May Plant out when the third true leaf is just starting to open	September - November	Pumpkins need a lot of space. Sow seeds on their side in pots (to avoid them rotting.) Restrict the numbers of fruit per plant - usually 2 - 4. Feed every 10-14 days with a high potash liquid fertiliser once the first fruits start to swell.	Try Cheyenne Bush Pumpkin from (www.realseeds.co.uk) Jack o Lantern good for carving, Baby Bear is good for eating and is good for smaller spaces.
Winter Cabbage	April - May	Nov - March year after	Cabbages will thrive on almost any well drained ground, but prefer a medium to light soil which will maintain a reasonable amount of water.	They are ball or drum-headed and hardy. Savoys have crinkled rather than smooth leaves. Try Tarvoy, Tundra or Jewel
Sprouting Broccoli	Mid April-June	March – May year after	Transplants well so can be grown in pots first. A good early crop for the early spring, when not much else is ready but if you have a small plot it will lock up space for a long period	Try Early Purple Sprouting Broccoli
Cucumbers	Late April/mid May	June - September	Choose an outdoor non-hybrid variety. Start the seed off somewhere warm in a small pot and plant them out once they have 3 to 4 true leaves. There is also no need to remove the male flowers.	Try 'Burpless Tasty Green' & Marketmore. Another interesting type to grow is the crystal apple. It is shaped like a ball! It only takes about 60 days until you can harvest one. If you are short on space it can be grown up a trellis.
Runner Beans	Late April – early June	July - October	The ideal plant for the beginner gardener. They prefer a position in full sun, although they tolerate part	Moonlight is a new variety of self pollinating runner bean and will set well even in poor weather

Runner Beans Cont'd			shade very well. Not frost hardy! Most will require support but there are dwarf varieties available. Beans need lots of moisture so add well rotted manure to retain moisture in the soil. They may start cropping in the holidays	or high temperatures. As a result they crop earlier. Also try Polestar (stringless variety) & Painted Lady (a pretty variety which can be grown in borders!) 'Hestia' is a dwarf variety, suitable for growing in containers, it crops earlier.
French Beans	Mid May/June (after last frost)	July - October	Plant later to avoid a crop in the holidays. They prefer a sunny, sheltered site. They are NOT frost hardy! It is best to start them off in small pots (hopefully will avoid being eaten by mice!) Climbing types will need supports.	Although not widely available try Cherokee Trail of Tears' Pole Bean from www.realseeds.co.uk or Algarve, with flattened, stringless, pods. A dwarf variety is Purple Teepee, with purple pods which may appeal to children (they go green on cooking!)
Carrot (Maincrop)	Sow successionally Mid May- July	August- October	Carrot fly	Try Autumn King
Spring Cabbage	Late July	April – May (following year)	They like a sheltered, sunny position with light and well-drained soil. Water-logging is a real problem to them thriving. Avoid fertilising as it will encourage leafy growth when the plants are susceptible to frost damage.	They tend to be conical in shape and quite loose leaved, often referred to as spring greens or collards. Try Savoy King or Primo Cabbage

Crop Rotation

Crops need to be rotated so that the same crop is not grown in the same place for more than one year. This is for many reasons. The main two are that it helps prevent the build up of diseases & different plants need different nutrients from the soil. By growing the same plant in the same place it could use up a single nutrient. To get the best out of your soil, a four year rotation of the main families of vegetables is recommended. See below:





Things to do Throughout the Year



January

- Harvest sprouting broccoli
- Harvest Jerusalem Artichokes
- Cook with stored apples – see recipes for mincemeat & apple crumble
- Weed/Manure beds

February

- Sow chillies indoors
- Sow early broad beans (Aquadulce should still be fine)
- Sow early peas (cloched as they prefer warm soil) – Peas come in two types, wrinkled & smooth. The wrinkled are the modern type and are more suitable as a maincrop as they prefer warmer soil. They also stay sweeter for longer so can be eaten when bigger. Smooth peas are older types and need to be picked very early to ensure they retain their sweetness. However, they are much more tolerant of cooler conditions so can be planted much earlier. Their roots don't like being disturbed so plant in pots that can put straight into ground e.g toilet roll inners. CLEAPSS (Consortium of Local Education Authorities for the Provision of Science Services) & HSE (Health & Safety Executive) state that, 'as long as egg boxes and toilet roll centres look clean, there is no reason why they should not be used.' For a comprehensive pea growing guide see www.bbc.co.uk/gardening/basics/techniques/growfruitandveg_growingpeas1.shtml
- If too cold, plant beans in pots under cover
- Sow early parsnips (try variety tender & true or Student)
- Plant late garlic - Only separate the garlic cloves within 24 hours of planting so the root nodules won't dry out and the garlic will be able to set roots quickly.
- Plant rhubarb - autumn is the best time but still possible this month. There are many varieties to choose from! People assume that the redder the stem the sweeter the rhubarb but that isn't true! Some greener varieties such as Victoria are very sweet. If you are forcing your rhubarb, Timperley Early is a good variety.
- Plant onions
- Buy/chit early potatoes
- Turn compost
- Harvest late leeks

March

- Plant beetroot (try Pablo - awarded RHS 'Award of Garden Merit'. It is a F1 hybrid so you won't be able to save the seeds) & turnips under cloches
- Sow summer cabbage, cauliflowers, purple sprouting & calabrese
- Sow spring onions
- Sow aubergines inside (min temp 20°C)
- Sow peas
- Sow carrots (under cloches)
- Sow tomatoes inside (min temp 20°C)
- Harden off broad bean seedlings then plant out
- Plant potatoes
- Prune back herbs
- Weed
- If you have not already considered it, make sure that you have a supply of **water** for the garden. This is especially important to be up and running before the summer holidays. If you do not have access to an outside tap, consider installing water butts (see additional sheet) or if you have raised some extra money, some sort of automated watering system.

April

- Plant strawberries – Good all rounder mid season cropping varieties with good disease resistance are Pegasus & Alice
- Sow leeks
- Sow spinach
- Sow summer salad
- Sow onion sets
- Plant main crop potatoes
- Sow herb seeds
- Sow short rooted carrot variety that can be harvested in July or Suttons Carrot Ideal Speedy Veg - A super-fast-maturing Nantes type carrot with uniform, rich-orange roots. Can be eaten whole or grated in salads. Ready to eat in 6-12 weeks.
- Sow cucumbers (most need to be grown in a greenhouse, but some ridged varieties can be grown outside, if grown outside there is also no need to remove the male flowers. One interesting type to grow is the crystal apple. It is shaped like a ball! It only takes about 60 days until you can harvest one. (If you are short on space it can be grown up a trellis.)
- **Sow courgettes** 'Zucchini' – Early cropping variety. Also recommended by the RHS to be an excellent attractant and nectar source for bees and other beneficial insects. 3 or 4 plants should be enough to plant. Mice love courgette seed, and slugs love the baby plants. The seed will also germinate best with a bit of heat, so we sow indoors in small pots, then plant out when they have 3 true leaves. Don't rush - often plants that go out slightly later will catch up and do much better than earlier plantings battered by spring storms from <http://www.realseeds.co.uk/courgettes.html>.
- **Summer squash** plant in pots & keep in a heated propagator or window sill.
- **Sow Parsnips** – Why not try 'student' – a variety first found in the Cotswolds!
- **Sow French & Runner beans** (Moonlight is a new variety of self pollinating runner bean and will set well even in poor weather or high temperatures. As a result they crop earlier from July – October.) It can be sown underneath cloches or in pots under cover. When **sowing runner beans with the children** rather than starting them off in normal pots try growing them in old plastic bottles. This allows the children to see the roots & shoots developing. The young plants can then be planted out as normal later. Collect some 1.5/2l plastic bottles. Cut off the top third. Line the bottle with an old cereal box covered with some kitchen towel. Place a pre-soaked runner bean about 2/3 down the bottle in between the bottle side and the cardboard. Pour in a couple of centimetres of water. Top up the water regularly.
- Sow peas
- Earth up potatoes
- Watch out for pests
- Prepare supports (bamboo/hazel)

May

- **Sow main crop/late main crop carrots** – Autumn King (sow successionaly March to August. *Main Crop*: These are sown in April/May and harvested in October/November. Sow in drills 2cm deep but 30cm apart. Sow seed very thinly and cover with light soil. Thin seedlings out to 4cm apart. These carrots are particularly suitable for storage after harvest. *Late Main Crop*: These should be sown June/July and are ready for harvesting from December onwards. Late varieties are good for storing and produce large roots. Thin seedlings out to 4 to 5cm apart and avoid bruising the leaves when thinning as the smell can attract carrot fly <http://www.seedaholic.com/carrot-autumn-king.html>) flyaway
- **Plant out outdoor tomatoes**
- **Harvest** broad beans, beetroot, rhubarb, carrots
- **Sow Squashes & Pumpkins** – To give plants a head start, sow seed 2cm deep into small pots either in a heated propagator or on a warm window sill.
- **Sow Swiss Chard & Leaf Beet** – For year round leaves and later winter vegetables
- **Plant out brassicas** – broccoli, sprouts, purple sprouting
- **Plant sweetcorn**
- **Plant out peppers**

- **Plant out courgettes**
- **Mulch strawberries** – by tucking mulch e.g. straw, breathable membrane or strawberry matting right under the strawberries it will keep them clean. Try using matting impregnated with copper which should also deter slugs & snails!
- **Support tomatoes/pinch-out side-shoots**
- **Protect crops** – Cover with fleece to keep out pests – particularly carrots
- Vent/screen greenhouses/ polytunnels – to prevent scorching of plants.

June

- Sow late lettuce – in hot weather sow in shaded beds or later/earlier in the day when the temperatures are lower.
- Sow cut & come again salad leaves
- Sow herbs
- Sow members of squash family in final position
- Sow late beans
- Harden off then plant out aubergines, peppers & tomatoes
- Plant out greens
- Plant out courgette, cucumber & Squash
- Plant out sweet corn
- Water
- Weed
- Make sure everything is supported
- Tie in pea shoots
- Pot up strawberry runners
- Put down mulch – this will really help reduce the need for watering during the summer holidays
- Earth up main crop potatoes
- Feed tomatoes, aubergines, peppers
- Keep an eye for pests & diseases
- Harvest strawberries, peas, new potatoes, early garlic.

July

- Sow autumn beetroot e.g. can either be used as a baby beetroot or as a maincrop – the size is dependent on how closely you space the plants.
- Sow peas for autumn – choose dwarf varieties and a slightly shadier spot.
- Plant spring cabbage
- Can still plant turnip, calabrese, kale, carrots & late main crop potatoes
- Plant out leeks
- Plant out winter cabbage
- Earth up brassicas – draw up soil around the base of their stem and firm it down to prevent them being blown over
- Pinch out the tips of runner beans and French beans when they get to the top of their supports so that they produce more beans and become less tangled.
- Pinch out the tops of tomatoes plants when they reach the tops of their canes if you are growing cordon varieties (cordons are tall varieties with a main stem like Gardeners Delight & Moneymaker)
- Keep an eye out for pests on your brassicas
- If the weather is dry, spray runner bean flowers with water to ensure that the flowers set.
- Summer fruiting raspberry canes need to be cut to ground level immediately after they have finished fruiting. New canes need to be tied in to stakes ready for next year.



Other Ideas for Autumn/Winter Sessions



- **Sow Green Manures/Soil Improvers** – e.g. alfalfa, red clover. These protect & improve empty beds over winter. Dig in the young plants 4 weeks before planting the new year's crops (Sept)
- **Sow Christmas Potatoes** – (Sept.) Plant in early September so that they get a good start before the days get shorter and the temperatures drop. Plant in moveable pots so that they can be moved under cover when the frosts arrive. Keep well watered. Available from recycleworks.co.uk.
- **Make cloches** (Sept/Oct)
- **Clean Greenhouse** (Anytime) – Clean inside & out with warm soapy water & brushes, disinfectant spray (for an easy recipe see Autumn/Winter Tidy-Up 2 Session Plan page 17.) If there is snow you can fill up a bucket with it and use it to scrub the greenhouse then polish dry with newspaper! (Gardeners' World Magazine Feb 2011.)
- **Build a Compost Heap** (Anytime) – See page 5.
- **Make Raised Beds** - (Anytime) - See page 2.
- **Construct Greenhouse/Poly tunnel** (Anytime) – See page 8.
- **Plant bare rooted Fruit Trees/bushes** (Oct/Nov)
- **Prepare Produce for Christmas Fairs** – (Dec) - Decorate jars of Home-made Jam & Chutneys – cut out material circles and tie on to lids with ribbon. Use frozen fruit for muffins. Use any apples or pears to make mince meat/mince pies. If you have hazel in your garden, cut it and shape into wreaths and decorate using holly, ivy, seed heads (e.g. fennel flowers).
- **Cut (coppice) hazel poles for Pea Sticks & Bean Poles** (Jan/Feb)- The best time to coppice is well after the autumn leaf fall when the sap has gone down, but well before the sap rises in the spring.
- **Prune Apple Trees** (Nov –late winter) – For pruning courses in January at Brookthorpe near Gloucester see Days Cottage website www.dayscottage.co.uk
- **Prune Autumn Raspberries** (Feb)

Tips for Surviving the Summer Holidays!

In the spring, if you have not already considered it, make sure that you have a supply of **water** for the garden. This is especially important to be up and running before the summer holidays. If you do not have access to an outside tap, consider installing water butts (see page 7) or if you have raised some extra money, some sort of automated watering system.

In June make sure everything is supported and put down mulch – this will really help reduce the need for watering during the summer holidays

In July

- Harvest as much as you can of produce such as raspberries, strawberries, beans, courgettes, tomatoes & onions before the holidays.
- If you need help covering upkeep of the garden over the holidays put out an appeal to children, staff & parents.
- Make a list of any jobs that need to be done over the holidays with clear notes such as the location of outside taps, water butts etc. Also make sure that any equipment such as watering cans, are easily locatable! Then make a rota. If your school runs a holiday club it might be worth asking them if they wouldn't mind incorporating taking care of the garden into their summer programme.
- If you are getting volunteer 'waterers' in, arrange access to the garden with the school.

In August, watering, weeding and harvesting/preserving any produce are the main issues. For tips on freezing see preserving session plans. Offer harvested produce to any waterers as a thank you! Enjoy your summer and the fruits of your labours!