

# GROWING EACH MONTH



## GROUNDWORK

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GREATER MANCHESTER



# JANUARY

## Preparation

- If the ground is not frozen you can start to prepare the beds by digging them over.
- After you have dug the beds over add well-rotted manure or compost and dig it into the bed this will add nutrients to the soil.
- By covering up selected beds or area with polythene sheets you encourage the soil to warm up.

## Sowing seeds

- You can now start to sow onion seeds indoors or in a heated greenhouse.

## Planting out

- If the ground is not frozen you can now plant out your first onion sets.

## Harvesting

- Harvest winter cabbages, cauliflowers, brussels sprouts, kale and leeks.
- Harvest root vegetables like parsnips, celeriac and winter radishes.

## Routine care

- You can start to force rhubarb by placing a clay pot over the new shoots. By doing this you can get an earlier and sweeter crop.

## Other tasks to do

- You can buy seed potatoes and start chitting them ready for planting in early to mid spring.
- You can also purchase onion sets.
- You could also buy seeds to sow.





# FEBRUARY

## Preparation

- By now you should have completed all your winter digging.
- Adding well-rotted manure or compost to the soil will add beneficial nutrients to the soil.
- You should also rake over seedbeds and cover them with polythene sheets to encourage the soil to warm up.

## Sowing seeds

- You can sow onion, lettuce, tomato, leeks, peas or globe artichoke seeds indoors or in a heated greenhouse.
- You can sow broad beans, early summer cabbages, spinach, peas and radishes outdoor under cover.

## Planting out

- If you haven't already you can plant outside onion sets and garlic.
- You can also plant outside jerusalem artichokes as long as you provide protection such as a frame or cloches.
- You can plant outside new rhubarb sets as long as the ground is not waterlogged.

## Harvesting

- You can harvest things like winter cabbages, cauliflowers, kale, sprouting broccoli, leeks and any remaining brussels sprouts.

## Routine care

- If you have any overwintering perennial herbs such as bay, rosemary, thyme and sage you should top-dress these to provide them with protection.

## Other tasks to do

- You should chit any remaining potato seeds.
- You can also purchase seeds to sow and onion sets.





# MARCH

## Preparation

- Your vegetable plot can now be raked or forked over but make sure to break up big clumps of soil. You should also make sure not to stand on any of the soil as if it's still wet you will compact the soil even more.
- As long as the weather is mild you can also start to harden off any seedlings that you've grown indoors by placing them outdoors under cover during the day and placing them back indoors at night.

## Sowing seeds

- You can sow lettuce, tomato, aubergine, sweet pepper, chili, cucumber, celery, celeriac, fennel, peas, sweetcorn and sweet potato seeds indoors or in a heated greenhouse.
- You can sow broad beans, red cabbages, summer cauliflowers, spinach, kale, brussel sprouts, onion, leek, carrot, turnip, peas, radishes, early lettuce and asparagus seeds outdoors as long as you provide protection such as a cloche, frame or fleece.

## Planting out

- You can plant any onion sets you have left over and you also can plant your first early seed potatoes.
- You can plant asparagus crowns and artichoke offsets outside.
- If you have any early summer cauliflower seedlings they can be planted outside as long as you provide protection such as a frame or cloche for them



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# MARCH

## Harvesting

- Harvest leeks, any sprouting broccoli and any remaining kale.
- Pick spring cauliflowers, spinach, swiss chard and spinach beet.
- If you have any early spring lettuces growing under cover you can cut them.

## Routine care

- Hoe out any weeds that start appearing in your vegetable bed.
- If you have any perennial herbs such as rosemary, thyme and sage prune the old growth back. If you have chives growing they will need to be divided.

## Other tasks to do

- Any broad bean seedlings or any other seedlings growing will need to be protected from slugs and snails.



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# APRIL

## Preparation

- As the ground starts to soften you can start putting up support systems such as canes and wigwams this supports climbing plants like beans and peas.

## Sowing seeds

- You can grow french beans, runner beans, courgettes and pumpkin seeds indoors or in a heated greenhouse. You can also grow more of the seedlings from last month indoors.
- You can sow swiss chard, spinach beet, summer and autumn cabbages, celeriac, swedes, cucumbers and land cress outdoors, some seeds may benefit from some protection such as a fleece or cloche. You can also grow more of the outdoor seeds from last month.

## Planting out

- You can now plant your second earlies and main crop seed potatoes outside.
- Any seedlings of aubergine, leeks, onions and early summer cabbages can be planted outside as long as they are provide with protection such as a fleece or cloche.
- April is the last month you can plant onion sets and artichokes.

## Harvesting

- At the end of the month you might be lucky enough to harvest you first asparagus crop.
- Pick your first spring cabbages.
- Continue harvesting leeks, spring cauliflowers, spinach, swiss chard and spinach beet.

## Routine care

- You can start to earth up your first early potatoes.
- Make sure you water young seedlings and thin them out if needed.
- Also hoeing your beds regularly prevents any weed seedlings from establishing.

## Other tasks to do

- If you have any vegetables growing in pots it may be a good idea to top-dress them and pot in bigger containers if needed.



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# MAY

## Preparation

- Any remaining vegetable beds will need to be dug over ready for early summer sowings and transplanting.

## Sowing seeds

- French beans, runner beans, carrots, winter cauliflowers, cabbages, beetroot, sweet corn, annual herbs and any seeds from last month can all be sown outside however if frost may still be a threat in your area they may need some protection such as a fleece or cloche.

## Planting out

- Any seedlings still growing indoors or outdoors under cover you can now start to harden these off, some seedlings may include tomatoes, peppers, chillies, celery, celeriac, Brussels sprouts and red cabbages.
- If you have any remaining seed potatoes they should be planted outdoors.
- You can now plant out any sweet potato slips or seedlings.
- If you have any containers these can be planted up with already grown herbs.



# MAY

## Harvesting

- Until the end of the month you can continue to pick asparagus.
- You can now harvest the first garlic crop, any globe artichoke crops and any early salad crops that are still growing indoors or outdoor under cover. Some examples can be lettuce, rocket, radishes or pea shoots.
- Harvest any rhubarb stems.
- Spring cabbages, cauliflowers, spinach, swiss chard and spinach beet can be picked.

## Routine care

- You should regularly water plants and weed areas especially vegetable beds.
- Any peas growing will need to be tied up against bamboo canes to support them growing.
- Pinching out the tips of broad beans can help to discourage aphids.
- You can also mound up any potato growth.

## Other tasks to do

- Any cabbages, cauliflowers and Brussels sprouts need to have collars fitted to help deter cabbage root fly.
- Also place a protective barrier around carrots to protect them from carrot fly.





# JUNE

## Preparation

- No preparation needs to be done during June.

## Sowing seeds

- Courgettes, pumpkins, summer and winter squash, fennel and anything that you have had chance to sow this year can all be sown outdoors now.
- If you want to propagate new plants you can sow asparagus seeds.

## Planting out

- Cucumber, sweetcorn and any remaining seedlings can all be planted outdoors. This includes any seedling growing indoors or outdoors under cover they all should be planted outdoors with no protection.
- Any herbs you have grown from seeds yourself can be planted outside.

## Harvesting

- Peas, broad beans, spring onions, early summer cabbages and cauliflower may all be picked depending on the weather.
- Your first new potatoes, onions, carrots, turnips and beetroots should be able to be harvested now.
- Rhubarb, garlic and globe artichokes you can continue to harvest.

## Routine care

- You should water plants regularly and weed any areas especially vegetable beds.
- Any overcrowded seedlings should be thinned out.
- Plants may benefit from a layer of organic mulch, it can help to retain moisture.
- Any french beans and runner beans should be tied to bamboo canes to support their growth.

## Other tasks to do

- Any cabbages, cauliflowers or Brussels sprouts will need to be netted to deter birds and caterpillar-laying butterflies.



# JULY

## Preparation

- No preparation needs to be done during July.

## Sowing seeds

- During July you can sow lettuce, other salad leaves, radishes, french beans, runner beans and spinach seeds outdoors.

## Planting out

- Any remaining seedling you may have need to be planted outdoors.

## Harvesting

- Harvest french beans, runner beans, celery, red cabbages, courgettes, outdoor tomatoes, lettuces, aubergines, peppers and chillies.
- Harvest peas, broad beans, spinach and summer cabbages.
- Harvest second early potatoes and your maincrops.
- Pick onions, shallots, garlic, carrots, turnips and beetroots.

## Routine care

- You should water plants often and weed areas often especially vegetable beds.
- Remove sideshoots and growing tips on outdoor tomatoes, also it is a good idea to feed the tomato plants with a liquid tomato fertiliser.
- If climbing beans have reached the top of the supporting bamboo cane then remove the tip of the leading shoots.
- If stems of brussels sprouts and other brassicas are unsteady then they need to be earthed up.

## Other tasks to do

- Any pea or broad bean plants that are finished cropping need to be cut back but leave the roots in the ground as they contain nitrogen and this is beneficial for the soil.





# AUGUST

## Preparation

- Green manure crops can be sown where there is nothing growing anymore.

## Sowing seeds

- Spring cabbages, spinach, corn salad, land cress and oriental salad leaves can all be sown outdoors in August.

## Planting out

- All seedlings should be planted out by now.

## Harvesting

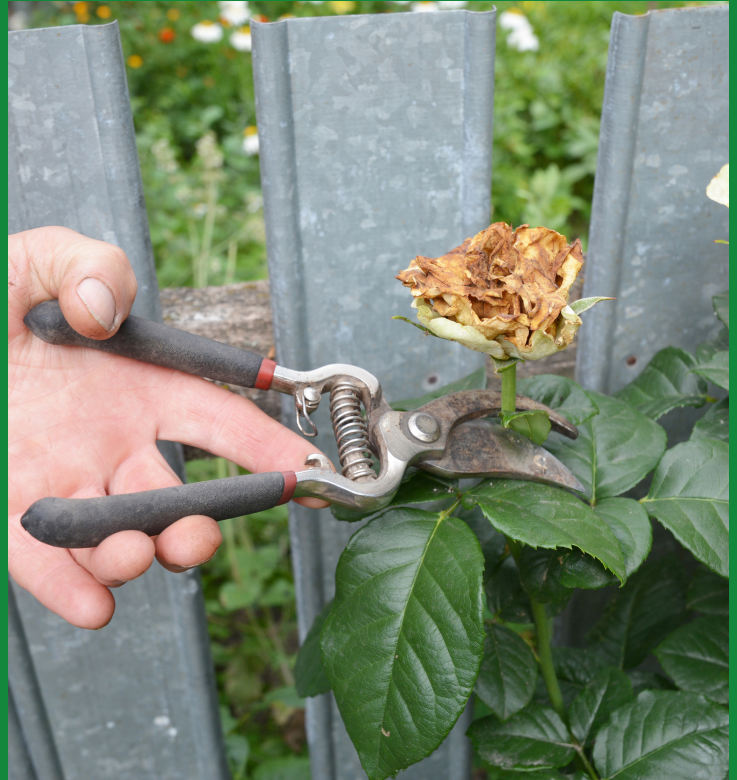
- You should now be able to harvest your first sweetcorn crop as well as outdoor-grown cucumbers.
- French beans, runner beans, celery, red cabbages, courgettes, outdoor tomatoes, lettuces, aubergines, peppers and chillies can be harvested.
- Maincrop potatoes, onions, shallots, garlic, carrots, turnips and beetroots can be harvested.

## Routine care

- You should regularly water plants and weed areas especially vegetable beds.
- Add organic matter to plants this is beneficial to plants as it helps them too keep moisture.
- If any salad crops or lettuces have become leggy they need to be removed as they are no longer an edible crop.

## Other tasks to do

- Some flowering herbs may now need to be deadheaded or cut back.



# SEPTEMBER

## Preparation

- Any current compost heaps need to be emptied to make room for this growing season's spent plant material.

## Sowing seeds

- September is the last month for sowing spinach and oriental salad seeds.

## Planting out

- Spring cabbage seedlings can be transplanted outdoors so they can overwinter.

## Harvesting

- This month is the last chance to harvest summer cauliflowers, onions and rhubarb.
- French beans, runner beans, courgettes, peas, spinach, summer cabbages, cauliflowers, leeks, sweetcorn, outdoor tomatoes, lettuces, chicory, salad leaves, aubergines, peppers, chillies and cucumbers can still be harvested.
- You can harvest florence fennel, parsnips, swedes, celeriac, maincrop potatoes, carrots, turnips and beetroots.

## Routine care

- Deadhead plants, remove any dead foliage or plants that have finished cropping.

## Other tasks to do

- Any yellow foliage on asparagus needs to be cut back as soon as it appears.
- Pumpkins and squashes once picked should be left out in the sun this will cure them and they will last longer.
- Before picking potatoes the foliage needs to be cut back.



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# OCTOBER

## Preparation

- Green manure crops can be sown and left to overwinter.
- Green manure crops will need to be dug in during late summer.

## Sowing seeds

- Next year's early summer cauliflowers can be sown outdoors now.

## Planting out

- Garlic for next year can now be planted.
- Rhubarb crowns can be split and planted.

## Harvesting

- Depending on the weather you may still be able to pick peas, tomatoes, cucumbers, sweetcorn, french beans, runner beans, aubergines, peppers, chillies and sweet potatoes.
- Harvest all your courgettes, pumpkins and squashes before the frost hits.
- Spinach, swiss chard, autumn cabbages, leeks, florence fennel, lettuces, chicory and other salad leaves can still be harvested.
- Harvest potatoes, carrots, turnips, parsnips, swedes, celeriac and beetroots.

## Routine care

- Dispose of any plants that have finished cropping.
- Remove bamboo canes and any other supports for climbing plants.
- Yellow or diseased foliage on cabbages needs to be cut off.

## Other tasks to do

- Jerusalem artichokes can be cut back to the ground.
- Belgian chicory can be picked for forcing.



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# NOVEMBER

## Preparation

- Any empty vegetable beds will now need some nutrients so it is a good idea to add some well-rotted compost or manure and dig it in.

## Sowing seeds

- Next year's crop of broad beans can be sown outside and left to over winter. Providing the frosts in your area are mild you can sow peas for next year providing you provide protection for the peas such as keeping them under a frame or cloche.

## Planting out

- You can split rhubarb crowns and plant them. You can also plant garlic bulbs.

## Harvesting

- Continue to pick winter cabbages, kale, brussels sprouts and winter radishes.
- Harvest spinach, swiss chard, leeks and florence fennel.
- Pick carrots, turnips, parsnips, swedes and celeriac.
- It may be possible to harvest lettuces and salad leaves, however you will need to provide protection for them such as a fleece, frame or cloche.

## Routine care

- Remove any plants that have finished cropping.

## Other tasks to do

- Tender perennial herbs will benefit more if they are moved under cover or into a sheltered location for winter.





# DECEMBER

## Preparation

- Emptied vegetable beds need well-rotted compost or manure digging in which will add beneficial nutrients to the soil.

## Sowing seeds

- There is no sowing during december.

## Planting out

- You can split rhubarb crowns and plant them outside. You can also plant garlic bulbs outdoors.

## Harvesting

- Pick winter cauliflowers.
- Harvest autumn and winter cabbages, brussels sprouts, leeks, kale and winter radishes.
- Harvest jerusalem artichokes, carrots, turnips, parsnips, swedes and celeriac.
- Salad leaves you may still be able to harvest include corn salad, land cress, komatsuna, mibuna and mizuna.

## Routine care

- Remove any plants that have finished cropping.
- Carry out PH tests on the soil you may want to add lime to the soil depending on the PH level of the soil.

## Other tasks to do

- Autumn-harvested vegetables that you have being stored need to be check, if any are rotting they should be added to the compost heap.





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Groundwork's address - Lake Rd, Trafford Park,  
Stretford, Manchester M17 1HB

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