**NOTES FOR JUNE**

June 21st is the longest day of the year & June 24th is Midsummer Day

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

"Roses are red,  
Violets are blue;  
But they don't get around  
Like the dandelions do."

Harold A. Pickett - (a.k.a. Slim Acres)

**JOBS TO BE DONE/THINGS TO LOOK AT SOWING AND PLANTING GUIDE**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **VEGETABLE** | **SOW INSIDE** | **SOW OUTSIDE** | **PLANT OUT** | **NOTES** |
| Artichokes - Globe | Sow | Late June | Plant |  |
| Asparagus |  |  |  | Stop cutting around the third week of June |
| Asparagus Peas | Up to mid-June  Don’t overwater | Up to mid-June  In a warm & sheltered position | Plant | Must be picked when very young (about 1 inch (2.5cm).  Do not overcook. I was not impressed when I grew them. |
| Aubergines | Pot on in Greenhouse to final container |  | Plant out if weather permits | Can be grown outside with a little (lot) of luck. Will need support. Watch for greenfly. |
| Beans Broad |  | If you don’t need the space try cutting them down to 2ins when picked. | With luck, you may get a second crop towards the end of the summer. | Start of Harvest for overwintered Plants. Watch out for Black fly or the ants that feed on them. Pinch out the growing tips of mature plants. |
| Beans French Climbing |  | Sow | Plant | French Beans need better growing condition than runner beans. |
| Beans French Dwarf | Sow | Sow | Plant | Sow two seeds per cane outside and thin out if both germinate. |
| Beans Runner | Sow  Early June | Sow  Early June | Plant | Sow two seeds per cane outside and thin out if both germinate.  Do not allow the soil to dry out. |
| Beans Borlotti  & other beans grown for seeds. | Sow | Sow | Plant | You can normally eat the young beans – but they are best grown for their seeds. |
| Beetroot |  | Sow | Plant  Try young beetroot leaves in salads.  A good use for those thinning’s. | Sow now for small tasty roots in mid to late summer. Can be left to grow on into early winter.  Do not forget to thin out previous sowings. Do not allow to get to dry it may bolt. |
| Broccoli - Sprouting | Sow very early June | Sow very early June | Plant | To harvest Nov to Mar  Dates seem flexible depends on the weather. We had some plots harvesting in May this year. |
| Broccoli – Sprouting Summer Cropping | Sow Early June | Sow Early June | Plant | Try Summer Purple |
| Broccoli |  | Sow – early June | Plant |  |
| **VEGETABLE** | **SOW INSIDE** | **SOW OUTSIDE** | **PLANT OUT** | **NOTES** |
| Brussels Sprouts |  |  | Plant |  |
| Cabbage Spring  Summer sown normally to overwinter  Harvest April – May | Sow | Sow |  | Finish harvesting last year’s crop in early June. |
| Cabbage Summer &  Autumn. Sow under glass in Feb or in seedbed March/April  Harvest Aug – Oct |  |  | Plant | Some cabbages of the pointed variety like Hispi can be sown from Jan to June & harvested from May to October. |
| Cabbage Red  Harvest Aug – Oct | Sow | Sow | Plant | Most Red Cabbages store very well |
| Cabbage Winter/Savoy  Harvest Nov - Feb |  | Sow early June | Plant | Some varieties have extended harvesting dates or mature quickly. |
| Calabrese (often called Broccoli especially in shops) |  | Sow early June | Plant | Has a much extended growing season in polytunnels or similar.  I know we don’t allow polytunnels!!!! |
| Carrots |  | Sow Maincrop  Now the soil is warm you can sow seeds a little thinner as Germination should be better | Remember carrot do not like manure, especially when freshly applied. | Harvest (if you’re lucky)  Last chance to sow main crop carrots Like Autumn King.  Do not forget the carrot fly!  Do not forget to thin out previous sowings. |
| Cauliflower Spring Summer headed | Sow | Sow | Plant | To Harvest May to Aug |
| Cauliflower  Autumn headed |  |  | Plant early June | To Harvest Aug to Nov |
| Cauliflower  Winter headed | Sow very early June | Sow very early June | Plant | To Harvest Jan to April. |
| Celery |  |  | Plant | Harvest Aug to Nov |
| Celeriac |  |  | Plant | Harvest Sep to Mar |
| Chard (Swiss) |  | Sow | Plant | Harvest late June |
| Chicory | Sow | Sow |  | Harvest Oct to Dec |
| Chillies |  |  | Plant | Too much Nitrogen can mean lots of leaf and few chillies.  Avoid overwatering early in season. |
| Chinese Cabbage |  | Sow | Plant | 12-16 Weeks to Harvest |
| Courgettes |  | Sow | Plant | These are hungry plants that thrive on manure & compost. |
| Cucumbers |  | Sow Early June | Plant outside  Protect from strong winds. | Greenhouse Cues should be planted into final containers.  Provide support for growth. |
| Endive | Sow  Plant out in July | Sow |  | Great addition to a winter salad bowl. |
| Florence Fennel |  | Sow | Plant | Late Summer Variety |
| Garlic |  |  |  | Keep free of weeds. |
| Kale |  | Sow | Plant | Harvest Nov to April |
| Kohl Rabi |  | Sow | Plant | Cover with insect mesh to protect from the flea beetle.  Don’t forget to thin out previous sowings |
| **VEGETABLE** | **SOW INSIDE** | **SOW OUTSIDE** | **PLANT OUT** | **NOTES** |
| Leeks |  | Sow  Early June  (Baby Leeks) | Plant | You can use the space from first early potatoes or over wintered Broad Beans **if available!!!** |
| Lettuce | Sow | Sow at regular intervals – every two to three weeks. | Plant | Harvest  Do not sow lettuce on really hot days. They don’t germinate well in hot conditions |
| Lettuce Lambs |  |  |  | Salad leaves can be sown now. |
| Marrow | Sow | Sow | Plant | These are hungry plants that thrive on manure & compost. |
| Melon | Sow | Sow | Plant or Pot on in Greenhouse | Plants outside will need protection |
| Mizuna |  | Sow |  | Harvest |
| Onions Spring |  | Sow |  | Harvest |
| Onions |  |  |  | Weed regularly – Water in dry weather. |
| Pak Choi |  | Sow |  | Harvest |
| Parsnip |  |  | Water in dry spells. | Do not forget to thin out previous sowings.  Keep free from weeds. |
| Peas Early |  | Sow | Plant | Harvest |
| Peas Maincrop |  | Sow | Plant |  |
| Peas Mangetout |  | Sow up to  Mid-June |  | Harvest mid late June onwards. |
| Peas Sugar snap |  | Sow up to  Mid-June |  | Harvest mid late June onwards. |
| Peas Petit Pois |  | Sow up to  Mid-June |  | Harvest mid late June onwards. |
| Peppers Sweet or Bell |  |  | Plant  They will need support | Too much Nitrogen can mean lots of leaf and few peppers  Watch out for greenfly. Do not overwater. |
| Potatoes New |  |  |  | 1st Earlies might be ready. Have a look once they flower! |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Potatoes Second Early |  |  |  | Earth up again if needed |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Potatoes Main Crop |  |  |  | Earth up again if needed |
| Pumpkin |  | Sow very early June  A bit late now | Plant | Sowing seeds or young plants on a mound of compost or earth Watch out for slugs. |
| Radishes |  | Sow | Always remember to thin out. | Harvest 5 – 8 weeks after sowing. Do not sow on recently manured ground. |
| Rhubarb |  |  | Cut off flowers | You can still pick a few sticks |
| Rocket |  | Sow |  |  |
| Salad Leaves |  | Sow |  | Cut and come again 3 or 4 times. |
| Salsify |  | Sow early June |  | Don’t forget to thin out previous sowings |
| Scorzonera or Black/Spanish Salsify |  | Sow early June |  | Don’t forget to thin out previous sowings |
| Shallots |  |  |  | Keep weeded. Shallots do not like competition. |
| Spinach |  | Sow  early June |  | Great when used as young leaves. They like Nitrogen and water. |
| **VEGETABLE** | **SOW INSIDE** | **SOW OUTSIDE** | **PLANT OUT** | **NOTES** |
| Spinach Perpetual |  | Sow | Can be harvested like Swiss Chard | Keep plants weeded and watered. |
| Squash  (Summer) | Sow  Very early June | Sow  Very early June | Plant  Protect from strong winds | Sowing seeds on a mound of compost or earth outside helps stop the seed rotting. Watch for slugs. |
| Swede |  | Sow | Plant.  They like a well-drained soil | Choose a mildew & clubroot resistant variety like Marian or Invitation. Do not allow to dry out, big changes between dry and wet soil can case the swede to split. |
| Sweet corn |  | Sow  Very early June  Rather late now | Continue to plant out. | Remember to grow in blocks not rows to help with pollination. |
| Tomatoes |  |  | Outdoor varieties can be planted outside now | Pot on into final container if not already done. Pinch outside shoots to improve crop.  Support cordon tomatoes & some bush varieties with shorter canes. Start feeding. |
| Turnip |  | Sow |  | Harvest late June onwards. |
| Watercress Aqua |  | Sow |  | Keep moist |

**HERBS**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **HERB** | **SOW INSIDE** | **SOW OUTSIDE** | **CUTTINGS** | **NOTES** |
| Basil Sweet | Sow | Sow | Plant | Harvest |
| Bay |  |  | Plant out | Harvest |
| Borage | Sow | Sow |  | Harvest |
| Chervil |  |  | Plant | Harvest |
| Chives/Garlic Chives | Sow | Sow | Plant | Chive flowers are edible and make a nice decoration for your salad bowl. Cut off flowers before they seed. |
| Coriander | Sow | Sow | Harvest | Harvest when ready |
| Dill | Sow | Sow |  | Harvest if ready |
| Fennel Common | Sow | Sow if warm in late May |  | Harvest when ready |
| Hyssop (Liquorice Mint) | Sow | Sow | Plant | Loved by Bees – Can grow up to 2 feet (60cm). Take cuttings. |
| Lavender | Sow | Sow in seedbed | Plant | Take cuttings and pot up.  Very slow germination  Lavender is now fashionable amongst foodies. |
| Marjoram Sweet | Sow  Very early in June | Sow  Very early in June | Plant | Easier to grow from cuttings than seed |
| Mint | Easy to grow from rooted cuttings | Sow  Very early in June | Plant | Roots spread quickly  Consider containing them |
| Oregano |  | Sow | Plant | Harvest when ready |
| Parsley | Sow | Sow | Plant | Slow germination  Harvest when ready |
| **HERB** | **SOW INSIDE** | **SOW OUTSIDE** | **CUTTINGS** | **NOTES** |
| Rosemary | Sow  Very early in June | Sow (covered)  Very early in June  Much easier from cuttings. | Plant out when ready | Take cuttings and pot up.  Slow to germinate. Will grow into a large bush unless clipped back |
| Sage | Sow | Sow | Plant | Will grow into a large bush unless clipped back  Take cuttings and pot up.  Harvest when ready |
| Tarragon French | - | - | Plant | Much better for cooking  Started from cuttings |
| Tarragon Russian | Sow | Sow | Plant | Best used to make tarragon vinegar or in salad dressings. Slightly bitter aftertaste.  Harvest |
| Thyme | Sow  Very early in June | Sow (covered)  Very early in June | Plant out when ready | Peg down a stem to form roots to propagate. |

Many herbs are best sown on a little and often basis so you always have some available.

Dill, Fennel, Marjoram and Thyme are examples of herbs best sown this way.

**JOBS FOR JUNE**

I know we are always on about our water bill but in a dry spell, some crops will need to be regularly watered. What we are concerned about is water wastage, in Mid-May last year when it was due to rain on an off for the next five days, we had a member outside in the rain, umbrella in one hand, watering can in the other, watering his plot.

Tomatoes and other hungry plants will benefit from regular liquid feeding, especially if grown in containers. Do not add a capful for luck, over strong liquid feeds will burn leaves and harm the plant

Regular hoeing is necessary to keep weeds under control it will also improve water retention and absorption in the soil. Try to choose a warm sunny day when hoeing so the weeds lying on the surface die off rather than re-root. A sharp hoe makes the job much easier.

Check all fruit and vegetables regularly for signs of pest and disease. **Never** let up on the on-going battle with slugs and snails or forget to recover you cabbages etc to keep the birds off.

**FRUIT**

1. Watch out for any signs of pests or diseases.

2. Thin fruit if necessary on Apples, Apricots, Peaches Pears and Plums; fruit needs room to grow and leaving an excessive amount of fruit on the tree will not give the best crop and can cause branches to snap. “June drop” is a natural event for fruit, particularly apples; many gardeners wait until it has occurred before manually thinning fruit, if required.

3. Summer prune gooseberries to ensure good air circulation in the centre of the plant. Keep all fruit free from weeds; they will rob the fruit trees and bushes of nutrients and water. Red and white currants may also need attention or have their height restricted by pruning. Apply a mulch to blackcurrants to improve water retention in the soil; this will help ensure you have a good crop of currants.

Harvest early strawberries and keep the plants protected from the birds with netting. If you need new strawberry plants anchor the runners from healthy plants, otherwise remove them.

Keep on training the new shoots on Blackberries, loganberries etc.

**VEGETABLES**

1. Keep on removing any flower spikes that may form on Rhubarb.

2. Remove side shots from tomatoes as they form, this does not apply to bush or tumbling tomatoes.

3. French Beans, Runner Beans and Courgettes will need to be watered in dry spells.

4. Watch for signs of downy mildew on autumn sown onions in particular.

**Cultivating**

* Continue thinning out your carrots, parsnips, beetroot etc. Cover the carrots asap to keep the carrot fly off once you have finished.
* Water when and if required. Do not just sprinkle a few drops on the surface, it will probably not penetrate down to the roots and will not do any good. It is far better to give plants a good watering less frequently, this ensures that the water will get to the roots of your crops, rather than just evaporate off the surface of the soil.
* In very dry weather, keeping the surface friable by hoeing, this will help keep the water from getting pulled to the surface by capillary action and then evaporating away. It also helps water soak in when you do get some rain. The weeds killed off by hoeing won’t be robing your plants of water either.
* **Planting**
* You should be able to plant out brassicas now. Broccoli and Calabrese, Brussels sprouts, summer cabbage etc they need to be in planted in firm ground.
* If you have started beans in pots, both runner and French these can go outside too. Leeks may well be ready to move to their final position. Ideally, they want to be about pencil thickness. Modern views on leek growing do not advise following the old guidance to trim the leaves and roots when transplanting leeks. It is claimed that this practice has been proven to be of no benefit and is counter-productive. I note that many of our long term plot holders still snip away!!! Celery can go out now as well.
* Outdoor tomatoes can go to their final position now (wind permitting). When moving plants from greenhouse to outdoors, it is a good idea to condition them to the move. This involves placing them outside in the day and put them back under cover at night for a few days or moving them from greenhouse to cold frame. The purpose of this is to avoid shocking the plant by a sudden and drastic change in climate.

Roger