

# NOTES FOR JUNE

June 21<sup>st</sup> is the longest day of the year & June 24<sup>th</sup> 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	

<b>VEGETABLE</b>	<b>SOW INSIDE</b>	<b>SOW OUTSIDE</b>	<b>PLANT OUT</b>	<b>NOTES</b>
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 <b>if available!!!</b>
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				1 <sup>st</sup> 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		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.

<b>VEGETABLE</b>	<b>SOW INSIDE</b>	<b>SOW OUTSIDE</b>	<b>PLANT OUT</b>	<b>NOTES</b>
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 cause 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**

<b>HERB</b>	<b>SOW INSIDE</b>	<b>SOW OUTSIDE</b>	<b>CUTTINGS</b>	<b>NOTES</b>
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 think that so far this year one of the most appropriate bits of advice might be, if at first you don't succeed, try, try again.

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 robbing 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.

I started work on this article with strong winds in Mid-May, the near summer like condition of a few week ago are long since gone, the first day of summer seems a long way off looking out of the Allotment Office window. The question of when to plant seems to have been particularly difficult this year, but as Alan Thrift remarked over a cup of coffee, "If you don't plant them out soon, they will not have time to grow!"

Roger