

Basil Sweet Genovese & Lemon Basil Growing Basil is relatively easy

If growing Basil in pots then ensure that adequate drainage is allowed from the base of the pot (line with coarse gravel if necessary).

If growing outside then ensure the soil is well dug over and weed free before sowing.

Before sowing ensure that the compost or soil is moist (water generously the day before sowing).

It is vital that Basil is not exposed to the last spring frosts so if sowing outside be patient and sow in late March. Sow at any time if the plant is always to be kept indoors. If sowing inside and planting outside late then you can sow in late february.

Sow the seed thinly and if growing in pots sow enough for a few plants in each pot. Cover the seeds with 1/2 cm of compost and firm gently. Basil seeds should germinate in about a week and once the seedlings have developed 2 pairs of true leaves then you can thin out the weakest seedlings in each pot, leaving each pots strongest. Basil should be grown in a position that receives a good amount of sunlight - around 6-8 hours a day. Basil can be grown indoors on a sunny windowsill or outdoors in containers or soil. If growing outside try and position the Basil in a sheltered spot that avoids cold winds. Basil likes a fertile soil that has been well dug to allow good soil air circulation. Introducing well rotted organic compost or manure into the soil a month or so before sowing will help this.

If growing in pots then a general purpose compost is a suitable soil solution.

Beetroot Bolthardy Bolt Resistant - Good For Early Sowing

SOW OUTDOORS - March-July, thinly, direct into the required harvest position, 1in (2½cm) deep in rows 12in (30cm) apart. Keep soil moist at all times.

GROW ON - Thin seedlings to 4in (10cm) apart. For baby beets, thin to 2in (5cm)

TIP - Bolt resistant varieties can be sown early, as soon as the soil begins to warm up or under cloches. Use thinnings as baby leaf. Use fleece to protect crop from frost or cold wind. Twist off the tops to prevent "bleeding".

Broad Bean Aquadulce – sow October-November or February-March outdoors staggered row Sow 5cm deep in a double staggered row 20cm apart. If planting another double staggered row plant 50cm apart. If the soil is moist they can be pushed into the ground or alternatively dig a little hole with a hand trowel. Sow a few spare at the end of the row, so these can transplanted if there are some failures. Seedlings will germinate within 7-14 days. Water and keep well watered in dry periods.

Support try bamboo canes and netting, and as the beans grow twine them through the netting. When the first beans begin to form, pinch out the top 8cm to encourage the plants energy into forming more pods. This also helps to discourage black-fly who love the tender shoots. Make sure crops are well-watered through out the season. It pays to protect the crop with cloches or similar protection in very cold periods. Harvest: winter grown June – Autumn spring sown 4 weeks later.

Brassicas (wallflowers are brassicas) The ideal brassica [bed](#) needs both nitrogen and humus so the addition of manure in autumn will accomplish both. Dig over the soil and then add a barrow load of manure per square metre to the land. You can even add more if you wish, some of the best brassica growers add twice that amount of manure.

Leave the manure over the winter to give the worms a chance to take some down into the soil. In the early spring fork over the top 15cm of the soil to mix the manure in or run over with a rotovator and leave for a week to settle.

Now adding the manure will have had the effect of making the soil more acid and if any plant does not like an acid soil it is the brassica. If you can do, test the pH to measure the acidity and add the appropriate amount of lime to take the level up to 7.0.

If it goes a little higher it will not matter so if you cannot test just add about a kilogram per square metre on a clay soil with about half that on a sandy soil and leave this to weather in for a couple of weeks. Never add lime and manure at the same time because they react together and benefit neither. By adding manure in the autumn and lime in the spring, sufficient time will have elapsed, to prevent trouble. brassicas are a greedy crop - adding 60 grams per square metre of a general purpose fertiliser such as Growmore or Fish, Blood and Bone before planting out will benefit them.

Most failures with the cabbage tribe come down to lack of nutrition so if you cannot provide loads of manure, add additional fertiliser.

Brussels sprouts require a long growing season - an additional boost mid-season will often make a dramatic difference to the final crop.

Since they are producing leaves, albeit wrapped up tight with the sprout, it is nitrogen they are most likely short of. A sprinkling of dried blood or sulphate of ammonia around the base of the plant will provide that additional nitrogen midway through the growing period

If the plants do not seem to be doing well and the cause is not a disease or pest then feeding with a high nitrogen liquid fertiliser will often save the day with any of the brassica family.

Calabrese Calabrese is a brassica and the general [brassica growing instructions](#) apply.

- Sow in early spring, under glass. Calabrese does not like root disturbance, so start it off in modules and then move it into pots before final planting out in June–July.
- Space 45–60 cm each way between plants, depending on the variety.
- If you're growing one of the smaller varieties in a pot or closely spaced, Kabuki needs a final spacing of 30 cm (12 inches) and Sakura at least 45 cm (18 inches).
- The above sowing/planting out schedule will provide crops from August to October.

With some varieties, cutting the spears and leaving the plant in the ground will produce a second flush of smaller spears.

Carrot nantes 2

Success with root vegetables is very much down to the quality of the soil that they're grown in, so it's worth taking the time to prepare your patch. Start digging over your soil in late winter or early spring, removing any stones you find and thoroughly turning the soil until it has a fine, crumbly texture.

- If your soil is not ideally suitable for carrots or parsnips, you can prepare a large container for sowing instead. When digging over your soil, do not add manure as this makes the soil too rich for the seeds.
- One week before sowing your seeds, rake in a light dressing of general fertiliser.
- Carrot seeds are small, but it's wise to plant them as thinly as possible. This reduces the amount of thinning necessary and potential risk from pests.
- Sow the seeds thinly on a sunny, dry day in shallow drills around 2-3cm (1in) deep, covering the seeds once in place. Early sowings in March and April may need to be protected with fleece or a cloche in some parts of the country. If you have difficulty sowing thinly, try mixing the seeds with a handful of sharp sand and then sowing the seeds and sand together. The sand will aid drainage and will allow thinner sowing.
- Once the seeds have germinated and are showing their first rough leaves, thin the seedlings to 5cm (2 in) between plants.
- Parsnips can be grown in a similar way, but as they're larger they should be thinned to 15cm (6 in)
- The plants need little other attention during their growth period, although the plants should be kept well watered - too little water results in coarse, woody roots.
- From June to July onwards, start pulling up your carrots as soon as they're big enough to eat. It's best to harvest them in the evening to avoid attracting carrot fly.
- Late-sown carrots must be lifted by October to be stored over the winter.
- Store only the best, undamaged roots, cutting off their foliage and lie the roots between layers of sand in a strong box, ensuring that the roots do not touch. Store the box somewhere cool and dry, and check the carrots occasionally, removing any odd rotten roots before they infect their neighbours.

Climbing French Bean blue lake – sow indoors late march onwards about 4cm deep kept warm and watered seedlings should be ready for planting out 5 weeks

sow outdoors may after frost til mid july 2beans per 5cm hole every 3weeks in succession

fertile soil lots of moisture water regularly when first flowers appear

support – beans up to 210 cm high so wigwam or trellis to lean on -they can get heavy

harvest within 60 days pick daily to ensure continuous harvest -dried beans can be stored in a jar

Coriander sow direct in rows 30cm (12in) apart and thin to 20 to 25cm (8 to 10in) apart. Or in container at least 8" wide and 6" deep with good drainage. Do not overwater. Plant in groups of three to five seeds at 10cm (4in) in the spring and thin to 8" apart Plant successively, and feed with liquidfeed once a fortnight. From half grown to flower fade. Coriander repels harmful insects such as aphids, spider mites and potato beetle. A tea from this can be used as a spray for spider mites. Partners' for coriander are for anise, caraway, potatoes and dill. But Don't plant near to fennel, it is bad for both plants.

Corn Salad -harvest 30 to 60days from sowing Sow successionaly at fortnightly intervals from late summer to late autumn once temperatures begin to drop.

broadcast or sow in rows 13mm (0.5in) deep and 15cm (6in) apart. Cover seeds with 3mm (1/8in) of fine soil. Or plant 6" apart or sow individual plants 15cm (6in) apart, for large and bushy salad greens of the most succulent texture. Thin when the plants are 5cm (2in) tall. Use the thinnings in the kitchen Allow one to two weeks for germination, depending upon weather and soil warmth. Guard against birds and slugs at the early stages.

By October, young plants should be well established and able to survive the rigors of winter. The salad then can be harvested all winter long.

Corn salad will grow in nearly all soils and situations but enjoys rich moist soil. Water the young plants during dry spells and ensure weeds do not swamp the plant.lightly mulch diruing severe cold and if the flavour turns bitter, blanche leaves before the next picking by covering the plants with a box or pot for a few days before harvesting. warmer temperatures invariably cause this to run to seed very quickly.

Cucumber – crystal lemon – sow indoors Jan – April c2.5cm deep

sow on sides to prevent rotting - yogurt pot - one each – transplant carefully

outdoors may after frost – heavily manured mound about 30cm diameter

protect young plants with cloche -- some support needed -about 90 days to harvest - water regularly every week feed with high potash especially after fruit has set jOLeeks like a well-lit position, with soil that has been improved by the addition of plenty of [organic matter](#). Fill pots or seed trays with good quality, multi-purpose compost and firm gently. Scatter the seed thinly on the surface, cover with a few millimetres of compost, water and keep moist. Pot on seedlings individually into small pots or do it the 'cheat's' way: remove the pot and pull the rootball apart, and place it in a larger part-filled pot and add compost between the seedlings.

Fork soil to remove all debris and large stones and break up any large clods. If necessary, incorporate some well-rotted manure or garden compost to improve soil texture and fertility.

Transplant the leeks into the ground when they're about 15-20cm tall. Use a broom handle to make holes 15-20cm deep and about 15cm apart. Leave about 30cm between rows.

Carefully lower one leek plant into each hole, twisting each between your fingers to get the roots in. Check the roots are in the bottom of the hole and water well so soil is washed in. Cover the crop with well-pegged-down horticultural fleece.

On a heavy soil, use a fork to lift leeks when harvesting. On light soils you may be able to pull direct. For best freshness and flavour, lift leeks from the veg plot when you need them.

Keep the ground weeded to reduce competition for water and nutrients, and water regularly if the weather is dry, to prevent plants running to seed

Keep an eye out for leek rust - bright orange, raised pustules on the outer leaves. This can do a lot of damage in wet years. Avoid watering the leaves and use resistant varieties

Cover the developing crop with well-pegged-down fleece from the moment you plant it. This avoids infestations of leek moth, whose caterpillars cause foliage dieback and low cropping

Fennel Use for leaves and seeds. Tall plant with a thick root and stems flowers July August. Sow direct March to May well drained sunny position. The richer the soil the more tender the foliage and less aromatic the seed. the late spring. Plant seed 25 to 30cm (10 to 12in) apart and then thin them out as necessary. It grows a very deep taproot which is difficult to pull up, so remove unwanted seedlings while young.

To maintain a continuous supply of fresh leaves throughout the season, sow a few seeds 4 weeks If seeds are not desired, remove flower heads to promote bushier growth. For more plants, divide the roots in autumn after the seeds have been harvested. To keep the plants healthy it should be replanted every three to four years. If allowed, the plant will self-sow generously. If fennel is being grown exclusively for its foliage, remove the flower heads to prevent it from self-seeding. When flowers have finished them cut back to 30cm (12in) from the ground.

Leek Hannibal

If possible, prepare the soil for planting in the winter. Dig the site well, removing weeds and working in plenty of well-rotted manure to improve its ability to retain water. Leeks can be planted in heavy soil, but improve the drainage by mixing in some horticultural sand. This is a hungry crop – spread a general balanced fertiliser over the soil a week or so before sowing and rake in. A rate of 60g per square metre is ideal.

Timing:

If you live where the autumns are long and cool and frost is rare, you can plant two crops. Sow the first crop 12 to 14 weeks before the last frost in spring.

In mid-July, sow the second crop indoors. If your area could experience frost during the winter, plant a frost-tolerant variety for your second sowing.

Sowing: Sow seeds indoors 12 to 14 weeks before the last frost date. thinly and evenly 6mm (¼in) deep in moistened potting mix and cover lightly with vermiculite or sand. Keep the soil temperature at about 22°C (70°F) until the seeds germinate. Move into a bright window. When about 6" long, cut them back to 2" harden off before transplanting. When you have a space, make a small dent, and a hole, carefully separate each seedling and dangle roots into hole. Do for all then water seedling roots in. as plants grow blanch stems by mounding up soil around the plant.

will wash some soil over the roots and be just enough to tighten the little plants in. Over time the holes will fill up gradually.

Keep the leek bed moist in dry weather and hoe regularly to keep the weeds down. Except for exhibition plants there is no need to feed the leek plants. But if you want to be sure of a good crop you can feed with weak liquid manure and hoe in a small dressing of nitrate of soda.

After the holes the leeks were planted in have filled up, push some soil up to the stems with the hoe. This will make sure you will have a good length of white (blanched) stem. Do this earthing up gradually over a period of three weeks because if done too much too soon, the leek plants may rot. Mulch will help to retain moisture over summer.

Peas Waverex - Peas sown directly in the soil can be eaten by slugs, snails and mice. For better results, raise them indoors in individual pots 8cm (3in) deep or root trainers.

Once the plants are around 15cm (6in) tall, plant them outside when soil is warmer – (manure mixed with organic waste in a **trench under** the seed will keep soil warm). Push twiggy sticks pruned from shrubs or trees in the soil to support them. Carefully remove the plants from the root trainers or pots, without disturbing their roots. Plant them with the compost they grew in around 10-15cm (4-6in) apart, with the same distance between each row. Encourage the plants to grow up the supports by gently twining them around the sticks. You may even need to gently tie them to the supports initially so they don't flop over.

Water the plants in well. Then, over the coming months, water them regularly, particularly during dry spells. For the best results, keep the soil moist. Peas prefer rich, moist soil, so prepare the ground well by forking in plenty of garden compost or well-rotted manure. Peas are vulnerable to attack from birds, so consider protecting them using netting. Even a single pod left to mature on the plant can dramatically reduce the number of flowers and pods produced, so pick your peas regularly to keep them cropping.

Raddish quickly turn woody once fully grown, and then go to seed. Sow little and often from March through to September. wherever there is a small space Sow a pinch of seed thinly, spacing about 3 cm (1 inch) apart. Rake in or cover with 1 cm (½ inch) soil. Radish benefit from shade during hot summers and can be grown in the shadow of other crops. Keep moist if the weather is dry. Harvest salad radishes as soon as they are ready, before they become woody.

Salad Burnett Site: Salad burnet like sun or light shade - it needs about 6 hours of sun to do well. It prefers a non acid soil. In mild climates it will continue to grow into the winter months, and it comes back quickly in the spring. Propagation: Sow the seeds in spring or autumn. Start indoors to give it a head start or direct seed after the last frost. Or purchase pot grown plants. Growing: Transplant seedlings at one foot intervals in your herb garden. The leaves are low growing, but flower stalks may reach up to 2 feet. The first year it will reach 6 - 8 inches, and you can begin using the leaves when they are about 4 inches high. Cut flowering stems and old leaves regularly to produce plenty of tender young leaves. Harvesting: Salad Burnet can be harvested early the first year. Pick young tender leaves whenever required. Culinary Uses: This nutty and slightly sharp cucumber flavored herb is used as a garnish, in salads, herb butters and soft cheeses. It is also good sprinkled on vegetables. Add at the beginning of cooking to casseroles and creamy soups. Combine with other herbs well, especially rosemary and tarragon. You can also use salad burnet to flavor vinegar and salad dressings or give a cooling effect to summer drinks.

Spinach so mid to late spring or mid to late autumn when conditions are cooler. If spinach is sown in warm conditions it will not germinate. Harvest early summer to late summer or late autumn to early winter – if you sow indoors in cooler conditions, it can be spread throughout the summer as well. Just transplant the seedlings outside when they are 5cm (2in) tall. Provide some shade for those plants in the height of the summer.

Spring Onion Select soil that has very good drainage as you will want the spring onions to remain moist but not over-watered. Plan an area to grow your spring onions that will receive a lot of sunlight. Spring onions do not need as much room to spread out to grow as some other garden vegetables. In fact, spring onions can be grown in relatively tight spaces as long as each seed can be spaced a few inches apart. When you determine where you will plant the spring onions, you can add some natural fertilizer or compost to that area a few days before planting spring onion seeds. When you are ready to plant the seeds, place them about ½ inch down into the soil leaving a distance of about 4 or 5 inches between each individual spring onion seed. You can start to plant your spring onions a few months before the last frost of the winter. In fact, spring onions are able to handle some fairly cold temperatures. (Over-wintering of spring onions is also possible if you want to be able to harvest fresh onions when the next spring arrives). Spring onions will usually be ready for you to pick within 17 to 19 weeks of planting them in the ground. You can harvest your spring onions by simply pulling them gently out of the ground. Keep in mind that you should wash your spring onions before use. You will enjoy your spring onions added to salads or chopped up to add flavoring to some of your other favorite dishes.

Suede Swedes are slow growing and best left in the ground over winter, being harvested as they are required. They are not suitable for close spacing or pot growing. A member of the brassica family –Swedes are not a particularly hungry crop but will benefit from 50 grams per square metre (2 oz per square yard) of general purpose fertiliser such as fish, blood and bone applied a couple of weeks before sowing. Sow May–June, direct cm (½ inch) deep, 20–25 cm (8–10 inches) apart. Keep well watered in dry periods to avoid a woody texture and split skins. Harvest from November. Leave the swedes to grow on in the ground, lifting them as needed. they can be stored as other root crops, but are at their best within a week of picking.

Sweet Marjoram press marjoram seeds into several blocks of oasis foam. This foam will hold the seeds and provide the medium they need to grow. Marjoram seeds are tiny and not recommended for controlled outdoor sowing.

Water the seeds lightly and place them either on a window sill in full sunlight or under a high-output fluorescent lamp. The seeds will germinate in eight days and develop large enough root systems to transplant in two to four weeks.

Mix equal measures of loam potting soil and plain sand into your pots. Marjoram doesn't need to be watered much but it does need well-draining soil, regardless of soil quality.

Break up the oasis foam blocks to expose the root systems of the herbs and place one about an inch deep in each pot. Marjoram's root system spreads out but stays close to the surface of the soil, which is why you will need large pots.

Water the pots lightly every other day and place them in a place with full sunlight. Do not ever leave the pots outdoors if you live in a temperate zone or anywhere that's colder; marjoram is very sensitive to the cold and can die in a matter of hours. You should not need fertilizers because the nutritional needs of marjoram are low. Marjoram is prone to fungal infections as well as whitefly and spider mite infestation. Guard against this by rubbing the plants and the perimeter of the pots with insecticidal and fungicidal soap. Your herbs should be mature enough to harvest for culinary purposes in six weeks.

Zucchini - Sow the seed outside without protection around the date of the last frost, [early May](#) is about right in . If you are sowing with cloche protection or starting seeds off indoors, sow about three weeks earlier. It is a good idea to place cloches in position a month earlier so that they warm up the soil. This greatly increases your chances of success when using cloches

Although courgettes (zucchini) like lots of moisture at the roots, they will rot if there is too much moisture around the base of the plant. This is why the seeds are sown or small plants are planted as described below. At the time of planting / sowing, dig out the top soil to one spade's depth in an area of 45cm (1ft 6in) square. Fill about one third of the hole with well-rotted garden compost. If none is available grass cuttings will be fine. Then put back all or most of the top soil in the hole. You should end up with the soil over the hole in a slightly raised mound. Each planting / sowing position should be 1m (3ft) from the others. If sowing outside, place the two seeds in each planting position covered with 1.5cm (½in) of soil. If transplanting small plants, then they should be to the same depth as they are in the pot. To make watering easier, inset a small pot into the ground (open end upwards) near the plant or seeds. This will allow you to pour [water](#) into the pot and it will go directly to the roots.