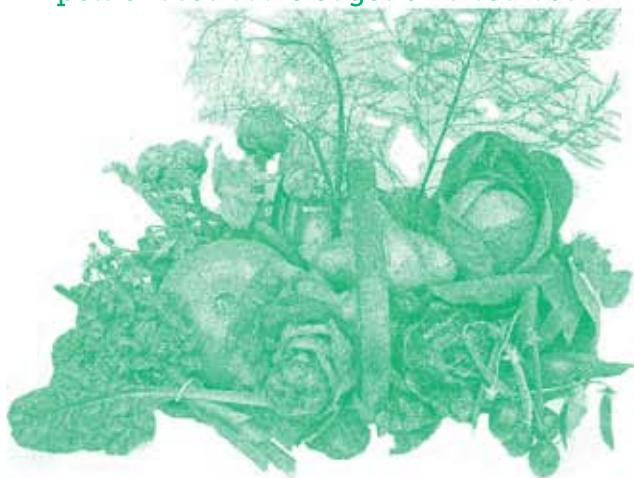


Peas

The first to be planted out are sugar peas and short, fast growing varieties. The bed for them should be 1m wide and the soil well raked. If using traditional pea sticks make a trench 5cm deep with a hoe or rake. Plant closely together in the trench and place small sticks along the rows to give the tendrils something to cling to, these pea sticks will also protect against birds. When they reach the top of these, add big pea sticks. If you are using netting, position it along the middle of the bed. Draw a trench to each side of the net and plant closely together. If moles are burrowing under your peas, tamp down their tunnels every day for a week and they'll give up. Peas can be sown successionaly till the end of May. Climbing peas look decorative in containers if you build a square or triangular frame for them. Small peas, like Meteor and Norli can be grown in pots or used at the edges of raised beds.



To see examples of all these techniques and a wide range of organically grown plants visit

the ASK Organic Garden

a half acre garden within Woodside Walled Garden, situated 4 miles north of Jedburgh, east of the A68 on the B6400.

The ASK Organic Garden is open 7 days a week March to October 10am to 5pm. Someone from ASK is usually on hand to answer questions on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays between 11am and 4pm.

Produced for the ASK Organic Garden Club by ASK Organic, Wolfhopelee, Bonchester Bridge, Hawick. TD9 9TP. Telephone 01450 860291 and 860778. email da@askorganic.co.uk

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HOME GROWN:

the organic way



Pricking Out and Planting On

May is a very busy time in the veg garden as most of what you have already sown needs attention. Seedlings and baby plants will be outgrowing their spaces and the ground will now be warm enough to sow and plant out directly into the ground.



PRICKING OUT

Seedlings growing in a seed tray quite quickly become overcrowded as their little roots and leaves jostle for water, nutrients, light and space. When you see roots coming out of the holes in the bottom or the leaves are touching you need to separate the seedlings and plant them in individual pots or modules.

Soak the seed tray or stand it in water, wet compost allows you to pull apart the delicate roots without breaking them. Always hold seedlings by the leaves, never the stem: a seedling can grow more leaves but not usually another stem.

POTTING ON

Plants which need to grow under protection for some time, because they would be killed by frost or are slow growing, will need to be transferred not just from seed tray to pot but also from a small pot to a larger one. Gradually increasing the size saves on space and compost and some varieties, like peppers, may fail to fruit if suddenly transferred from a small pot to a huge one.

Usually it is better to sink the young plant slightly deeper into its new pot so that the stem becomes sturdy; this is especially important for tomatoes and brassicas.

HARDENING OFF

Tender young plants grown indoors or in the greenhouse should first be hardened off for 1 week before planting out. This means gradually acclimatising them to the hard conditions outside by exposing them to the weather during the day but giving them protection at night.

You can carry the pots or trays of plants in and out or put them in a coldframe. This is a specially shaped box with a glass roof which is opened or taken off during the day and put back at night to protect plants from cold temperatures or frosts.

PLANTING OUT

Always fill the planting hole or trench with water and cover with dry soil; this encourages the roots to grow down to the moisture and not stay on the surface. Press down the soil firmly to give the plant stability

Plant	Distance between plants	Distance between rows
Potatoes		
1st Earlies	30cm	90cm
2nd Earlies	40cm	90cm
Maincrop	45cm	90cm
Pulses		
Peas	3 rows: 2x2x2cm	90cm
Broad beans	10cm (double row)	30cm
Dwarf French beans	15cm	15cm,
Climbing French and runner beans	15cm in climbing frame	60cm
Alliums		
Onions	10cm	15cm
Shallots	30cm	30cm
Garlic	30cm	30cm
Leeks	15cm	30cm
Roots		
Carrots, salsify	Thin to 5cm	15cm
Parsnips	20cm in 'stations'	45cm
Beetroot, turnips	5cm	10cm
Kohl rabbi	15cm	30cm
Celeriac, celery	30cm	69cm
Brassicas		
Cabbage, kale	45cm	60cm
calabrese, sprouts		
Cauliflowers	60cm	90cm
Neeps	Thin to 30cm, or in 30cm 'stations'	60cm
Spring greens	30cm	60cm
Sprouting broccoli	60cm	90cm
Tender Veg		
Squash	60cm	
Courgettes	1.2m	1.2m
Sweet corn	45cm	45cm
Greenhouse		
peppers, tomatoes	60cm	
cucumbers	90cm	