



Gardener's Almanac

A Seasonal Guide to Planting and Harvesting Seeds and Trees in the UK

A Guide to Planting Seeds in the UK

The United Kingdom offers a temperate climate, which is suitable for a variety of plants, fruiting trees, and bushes. Knowing when to sow and reap is essential for successful gardening. This guide provides insights into what seeds can be planted, along with the optimal times for planting and harvesting.

Vegetable Seeds

1. Carrots

- **Sow:** March to July
- **Harvest:** June to November

Carrots prefer well-drained soil and plenty of sunlight. Sow seeds thinly in shallow drills and thin out seedlings to ensure they have enough space to grow.

2. Potatoes

- **Sow:** March to April
- **Harvest:** June to September

Plant seed potatoes in trenches about 15 cm deep. Cover them with soil and later earth up the rows to protect the tubers from light and frost.

3. Peas

- **Sow:** March to June
- **Harvest:** June to October

Peas thrive in cool climates. Sow seeds in a sunny spot and support them with stakes as they grow.

Herb Seeds

1. Basil

- **Sow:** March to June
- **Harvest:** June to September

Basil needs warmth and sunlight, making it ideal for indoor or greenhouse planting early in the season. It is a great companion plant for tomatoes.

2. Parsley

- **Sow:** March to July
- **Harvest:** May to October

Parsley can be sown outdoors directly in a sunny or partially shaded spot. Regular harvesting encourages bushier growth.

Fruiting Trees

1. Apple Trees

- **Plant:** Dormant season (November to March)
- **Harvest:** August to October

Apple trees require a sunny position and well-drained soil. Choose a variety that is compatible with your local climate and pollination partners.

2. Pear Trees

- **Plant:** Dormant season (November to March)
- **Harvest:** September to October

Pears need a similar environment to apples. They benefit from protection against late frosts during the flowering period.

Fruiting Bushes

1. Raspberry Bushes

- **Plant:** Late autumn or early spring
- **Harvest:** June to October

Raspberries do well in a sunny or partially shaded spot with rich soil. They require regular pruning to maintain productivity.

2. Blueberry Bushes

- **Plant:** Autumn or spring
- **Harvest:** July to September

Blueberries thrive in acidic soil and need ample sunlight. Consider growing them in containers if your garden soil is not naturally acidic.

General Tips for Successful Planting

- **Soil Preparation:** Ensure your soil is well-prepared with adequate nutrients and good drainage. Adding compost can improve soil structure and fertility.
- **Watering:** Be consistent with watering, especially during dry spells. However, avoid waterlogging as it can damage the roots.
- **Pest Control:** Keep an eye out for common pests and take preventive measures such as using netting or organic repellents.

This guide provides a foundational understanding of what seeds and plants thrive in the UK climate. With attention to sowing and harvesting times, you can enjoy a bountiful garden throughout the growing season. Happy gardening!