

# Time for harvest

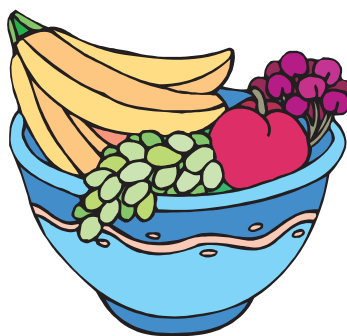
## VEGETABLES

### SOW OUTDOORS

- \* spring cabbage (to harvest next spring)
- \* chicory (non-forcing varieties, e.g. sugar loaf)
- \* chinese cabbage
- \* endive
- \* kohlrabi
- \* lettuce
- \* parsley
- \* peas
- \* radish
- \* turnip
- \* french beans
- \* beetroot
- \* carrot

### PLANT OUT OUTDOORS

- \* broccoli/calabrese
- \* cauliflower
- \* kale
- \* leek
- \* cabbage (winter and savoy)



## FRUIT

- \* A lot of cane fruit will ripen this month. Keep berries well-watered while they are swelling.
- \* Apple trees can be summer pruned in July.
- \* Summer prune red currants, white currants and gooseberries. Sideshoots which are this year growth should be pruned to 3 or 4 buds. Shoots which are crossing or growing in the middle of the bush should be cut out.
- \* Summer-fruiting raspberries should be pruned after the fruit has been picked. Old canes should be untied from supporting wires and cut out down to ground level. This year's canes should be tied to the wire supports.

## HARVEST

**VEGETABLES** - globe artichokes, broad beans, french beans, some early runner beans, swiss chard, perpetual spinach, beetroot, summer cabbage, carrot, cauliflower (summer varieties), greenhouse cucumber, kohlrabi, lettuce, courgette and other summer squash, onions, shallots, garlic, peas, potatoes (first earlies), radish, spinach and the first greenhouse tomatoes.

**FRUIT** - blackcurrants, gooseberries, rhubarb, some strawberry varieties, summer-fruiting raspberries, red currants, cherries, peaches.



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### Pesticide poisoning of wildlife up in Scotland

The number of animals or birds killed in Scotland due to misuse of pesticides has reached a 12-year high, according to a report published by SASA, the Scottish Agricultural Science Agency.

A total of 177 suspected incidents were investigated last year involving golden eagles, red kites, buzzards, rabbits, squirrels, foxes, peregrine falcons, swans, cats, dogs, cattle, sheep and horses.

Investigators established the cause of death in 78 cases, 52 of which were due to pesticides. Pesticides were deliberately misused in 39 cases - the highest number recorded in Scotland since 1994.

Ron MacDonald, of Scottish Natural Heritage, said: "It is unacceptable that Scotland's most iconic and vulnerable species are targeted and killed as a result of pesticide abuse."

In June, a Borders gamekeeper was found guilty of putting out poisoned bait by the Southern Upland Way.

The Scottish Executive recently banned the possession of eight pesticides because of their risk to the environment and wildlife.

Duncan Orr-Ewing of RSPB Scotland, said: "Illegal poisoning is an indiscriminate, dangerous and outdated practice that threatens some of our most vulnerable bird species ... We welcome steps by the Scottish Executive and police to tackle those involved."

<http://news.scotsman.com/scotland.cfm?id=982542007>

## GENERAL TASKS

- \* Mulch beds with organic matter to preserve moisture - particularly important for seedlings which don't have extensive root networks.
- \* Pinch out sideshoots of tomatoes and growing tips after the fourth tress has set. This forces plants to focus on ripening tomatoes.
- \* Fertilise tomato plants weekly and keep them well-watered. Dryness around the roots prevents tomato plants from taking up sufficient calcium and can cause blossom end rot.
- \* Fertilise onions and keep them well weeded; plants in the onion family (alliums) don't compete well with weeds.
- \* Check the undersides of brassica leaves for the eggs or caterpillars of the cabbage white butterfly. Squash any you find.
- \* Protect carrot sowings from carrot rootfly.
- \* Protect potatoes from blight by covering soil with a thick mulch.
- \* Prevent greenhouses from getting too hot by opening doors on hot sunny days and hanging shade cloth on the sunny side.
- \* Keep up with weeding and make sure no weeds go to seed.
- \* Protect summer cauliflowers by bending them over the flower heads to prevent them from opening up too early.
- \* Pinch out tops of climbing beans once they reach the tops of their supports. They will develop more sideshoots and more beans.
- \* Water runner beans well to encourage the flowers to set.



### Tomato and potato blight

Tomato and potato blight are both caused by the fungus *Phytophthora infestans*. Spores of the fungus survive over winter on infected potato or tomato plants from the previous season. They then spread with wind and rain and can germinate when humidity remains above 89% for 11 hours and temperatures above 10°C for 48 hours.

Symptoms may first appear in early summer as brown/black spots on leaves which spread to other parts of the plant. Spores falling on the soil from potato plants will infect tubers. The tubers then turn brown and often rot. Tomato plants have similar symptoms and tomato fruit will turn black.

The disease is very serious and can lead to total loss of both potatoes and tomatoes. To reduce the likelihood of infection.

- ◆ Plant resistant varieties
  - Potatoes - Many potato varieties show some blight resistance, e.g. Remarka, Verity, White Lady, Arran Victory, Spunta and Stirling
  - Tomatoes - Ferline F1 shows moderate blight resistance although will succumb eventually during a heavy infestation
- ◆ Good hygiene. Don't leave tomato plants/potato tubers in ground from the previous year and remove infected plant material immediately (bag it or burn it off site, only compost if you're sure your compost heap gets very hot).
- ◆ Consider you planting times. The earlier you plant your early potato varieties the less likely they will be infected by blight from a neighbours crop.
- ◆ Grow tomatoes in a greenhouse (they will get blight much less frequently).
- ◆ Treat with Bordeaux Mixture - see box.

### Bordeaux mixture

This is a mix of copper sulphate and lime used to control bacterial and fungal diseases. Its name comes from the Bordeaux region of France where vineyard workers first noticed downy mildew disappearing from sprayed grapes.

The toxic components are the copper ions. Although copper ions can accumulate in organisms they are only taken up from solution. Copper sulphate dissolves in neutral/acidic water but is relatively insoluble in alkaline conditions. As bordeaux mixture contains lime which is alkaline the copper sulphate does not dissolve readily. When it is sprayed on plants the copper sulphate stays on the surface of leaves and is not washed off readily by rain.

Copper is a micronutrient essential in small quantities for plants and animals, but moderately toxic in large quantities. Care should be taken to ensure bordeaux mix is wiped off tomatoes before eating. Concern about the possibility of copper building up in the environment and about potential harm to farm workers has caused some organic certifiers to restrict the use of copper-based fungicides. Soil Association certified growers must apply each time they wish to use it and the Soil Association monitors its use.



## PESTICIDE ACTION NETWORK UK

Pesticide Action Network UK (PAN UK) is an independent non-profit organisation working nationally and globally with individuals and organisations who share our concerns. PAN UK projects enable us to work effectively towards specific targets to enable us to:

- ◆ Eliminate the hazards of pesticides
- ◆ Reduce dependence on pesticides
- ◆ Promote alternatives to pesticides

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