

## May in the Garden

This time of the year in the garden is one of my favourites, as days are often sunny, but the nights are cooler. Preparation of the garden to survive the cold of winter and be productive through the colder months is important. Mulch is as important in Summer as it is in Winter as helps the soil temperature stay a bit warmer. If you have any frost sensitive plants make sure you have some protection for them like pieces of shade cloth, hessian bags, old sheets, plastic bottles or even bubble wrap. You can remove the protection during the day so the sunlight can help the plant and soil heat up.

It's now time to make sure that you have your Garlic planted. Plant the cloves pointy end up ,7cm apart and cover with 2-7cm of soil. Choose a spot in the garden that is free until end of December, is full sun and the soil is well drained and rich with well-rotted animal manure /compost. Fertilising with a liquid feed is best done every few weeks then stop feeding them as the leaves start to brown off. You can harvest in November & December when the soil is dry so you can just brush the soil away from the bulbs. The tops of the Garlic can either be plaited or cut down to give you the longest storage life possible. Make sure you store them in a dry low light area in an open container or hang them in bunches.

 **Seeds to plant**- Broccoli, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Leek, Onion, Peas, Radish, Spring Onion, Swede, Turnip

 **Seedlings & Bulbs** - Garlic, Kale, Lettuce, Spinach

 **Herbs to plant** – Chives, Coriander, Sage, Thyme



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