

GARDENING NOTES FOR MAY

With the coming of longer days and warmer nights, May is the time to be thinking of half hardy plants.

Early kidney beans can be sown under cloches at the beginning of May, or in the open at the end of the month. Runner beans may be sown out in the open about the third week of May, but they can be started in the green house in the first week and planted out at the end of the Month. Sweetcorn also can be planted out after being started in the greenhouse some weeks earlier.

About this time a succession of beetroot sowings can be commenced at weekly intervals, and the thinning of swedes should be carried out, the best way being by hand. In a previously prepared bed leeks can be planted out 30cm apart. This is a good time to plant out cabbages for the winter, such as Savoy, January King, Celtic and also mincole cabbage, which stands quite well.

Sweet Peas should be regularly checked with side shoots removed leaving just one side shoot to grow on. About the middle of the month plant out Chrysanthemum and Dahlias on previously prepared beds.

But most importantly keep the hoe going, and watch out for Frosts.