

EDIBLE GARDENS in May & June



Now's the time to plant your peas and beans. They'll stand tall in your garden and their curly tendrils love a little support. Some chicken wire against a sunny wall or bamboo poles for a wigwam in the garden are ideal. Plant tall growing crops on the southern end of beds to prevent shading of low growing vegetables. If you grow dwarf varieties they won't grow so high and are more compact but they still appreciate a little help.

Beans and peas are super easy to grow from seed. Try the variety *Coles Dwarf* broad beans and follow the instructions on the packet. In about eight to ten weeks from germination the flowers will form. By sowing them now you will be harvesting them in spring. Keep birds from scratching out the newly planted seed by making a forest of sticks around the rows or use netting to keep them off.

To enjoy the sweet flavours of peas and beans pick them when they're young and tender. They taste great raw straight from the garden. Some peas are best shelled but there are varieties like sugar snaps and snow peas that can be eaten pod and all! These ones are the easiest to prepare - simply cook and eat them whole.

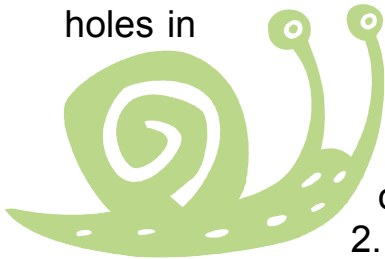
Brighten up your winter vegie garden with colour

Try purple and ornamental kale, red cabbage, rainbow chard and beetroot. Plant thick borders of curly parsley for great texture and leaf contrast. Don't forget that flowers will attract the bees. Good ones to pop in now are violas, lavender, poppies, nasturtiums and marigolds. Have fun mixing them in with your vegies and brightening up your winter with some cheery colour.

Protect your prize greens

Snails' favourite foods are green and leafy, just like your vegie patch. If you find holes in the leaves of your prize vegies and fresh silver trails in the morning, especially after some rain, here is what you can do to get rid of your unwanted visitors.

1. Go on a snail hunt at night with a torch and squash them or drop them into a bucket of heavily salted water.
2. Try burying a jar in the soil and pour in half a cup of beer. Check the jar daily for snails and top up the beer as necessary.
3. Put some canned pet food inside an old plastic pot and lay it on its side in the garden. The snails are attracted to the food and you can clean out the pot with a stick.



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