

## **What to do in April**

### **General Tasks**

Hoe the weeds regularly while they are small. Choose a dry day and avoid step onto the roots back into the soil.

Keep a tight control on aphids before they build up their numbers and destroy the crops. Try to use an organic option for pest control.

Prepare plant supports i.e. bamboo canes, hazel branches or others in preparation for any plants that require supports i.e. French beans, Peas, Runner beans and so on.

Plants are still vulnerable to frost damage. They need to be protected by using cloches or portable cold frames.

If you have planted your potatoes in March, it may be shooting through the soil now. It is necessary to earth them up to protect them from frost and to encourage bigger crops. The stolons (underground stems) that grow from the main stem, the longer it is, more stolons on which tubers can form. Earthing up the soil to cover the potatoes will kill weeds. Be careful not to expose any potatoes.

Make a note of what you have sown and what you plan to sow for succession planting. Sow little and often to avoid gluts. This is to keep the growing season longer and once the plants go to seed, it is not edible.

It is not worth to keep plants when they reached the end of their productions especially when you need the space in the ground or greenhouse.

If you are going to buying young plants for planting, buy them early so you can have the strong and healthy ones.

Place a bamboo cane on the courgette planting point (in the greenhouse) so you can see where to water the plant since them will be hidden by the big leaves.

Try to stay close to the plan that you have drawn where everything will go.

Be tidy. Need to remove any dead and diseased plants or foliage.

Transplant any young plants from small pots to bigger pots. Compost is exhausted of nutrients after 6 weeks.

### **Fruits**

Feed Blueberries on a monthly basis with a liquid or granular feed for ericaceous plants to give it a good and healthy start during the season.

Give your grapevine and Kiwi a general purpose feed such as chicken pelleted manure and mulched it with well rotted compost or manure.

Plums, Apricots, Damsons, Peaches, Nectarines and Cherries can be pruned now.

The sap is rising and this helps to keep any diseases like bacterial canker and silver leaf out of the wounds.

### **Sow Now**

Beetroot

Lettuce

Salad Leaves

Summer/Winter Cabbages

Broad Beans  
Peas  
Parsnips  
Radish  
Spring Onions  
Spinach  
Carrots  
French Beans  
Broccoli  
Brussel Sprouts  
Cauliflowers  
Celery  
Kale  
Endive  
Kohl Rabi  
Leeks  
Salsify  
Scorzonera  
Florence Fennel  
Cardoons  
Oriental Cabbages  
Chard/Leaf Beet  
Lettuce  
Turnips  
Asparagus  
Land Cress  
Runner Beans  
Courgette  
Sweetcorns  
Pumpkins/Squash  
Cucumbers

### **Plant Now**

Globe/Chinese/Jerusalem Artichokes  
Asparagus  
Onions/Shallots  
Second Early/Maincrop Potatoes

### **Harvest Now**

Asparagus  
Chard/Leaf Beet  
Winter Lettuce  
Broccoli  
Spring Cabbage  
Late Brussels Sprouts  
Winter Cabbage/Savoy

Winter Cauliflowers  
Forced Chicory  
Forced Seakale  
Rhubarb  
Endive  
Kale  
Leeks  
Spinach  
Radish  
Turnip  
Greens  
Salad Leaves