



Gardener Karl's Spring Top Tips!

SWEET PEAS

Now is the perfect time to be planting out sweet peas, either ones you have grown from seed or bought from your local garden centre. Train them up supports such as bamboo canes and as long as you pick the flowers on a regular basis and keep them well watered, you'll have bunches of sweet peas all summer long!



ANNUAL PLANTS AND FLOWERS FOR THE SUMMER

It's not too late to be sowing summer annuals such as cosmos, calendula and marigolds to provide a splash of colour during the summer months. Sow them in a pot of peat-free multipurpose compost and place somewhere warm, either a windowsill or greenhouse. Within 7-10 days, you should start to see the seedlings come through. Once the risk frosts have passed, plant them in a sunny position in your garden or in a container.

GREENHOUSE VENTILATION

If you have a greenhouse, it's really important to ensure you can provide as much ventilation as possible during the day. So in the morning, open all the windows and let as much fresh air in as possible. This will regulate the heat in the greenhouse better and stop your greenhouse from becoming an 'oven' and killing your small plants. Keep an eye out for those cold evening though and shut the windows if necessary. We can still get frosts in late May!



VEGETABLE PATCH

If you have a veg patch, get sowing outdoors all your fast germinating crops such as beetroot, radish, salad leaves and kohlrabi. Remember not to sow the whole packet of seed at once as sowing little and often ensures a constant supply through the summer and into the autumn. If you have the room, you may also want to start sowing courgettes, pumpkins and squashes under cover for planting out in June.

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