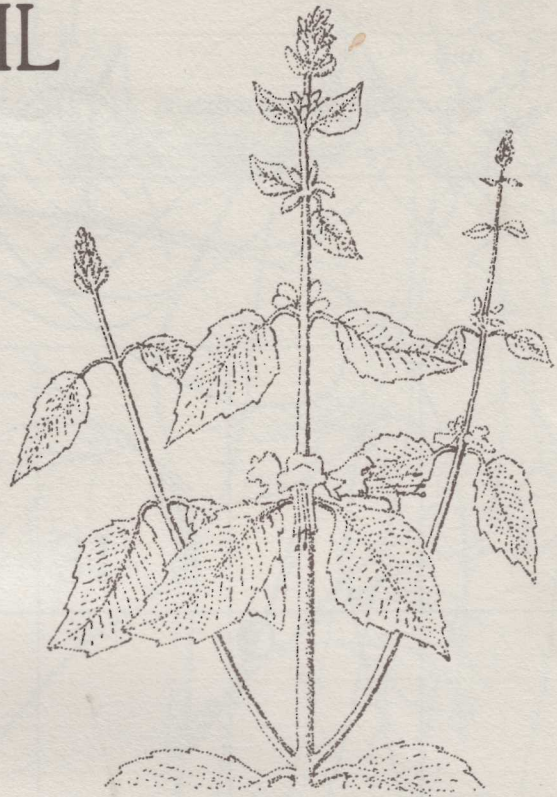


APRIL

SOWING GUIDE ACCORDING TO CLIMATE

WARM/HOT	MILD/TEMPERATE	COOL
Sow Beans	Sow Artichoke	Sow Broad beans
Beetroot	*Broccoli	*Broccoli
Broad beans	*Cabbage	*Cabbage
Broccoli	Chicory	*Cauliflower
Cabbage	Corn salad	Corn salad
Capsicum	Endive	Cress
Carrot	*Herbs	*Lettuce
Chicory	*Leek	Mustard
Endive	*Lettuce	Onions
Herbs	Onion	Radish
Kohlrabi	Peas	Shallot
Leek	Radish	Spinach
Lettuce	Swede	Turnip
Onion	Turnip	Spring onion
Parsnip		
Peas		
Potato		
Radish		
Silverbeet		
Spinach		
Swede		
Tomato		
Turnip		

*Transplant Seedlings



SWEET BASIL flowers should be removed to promote vigorous leaf growth. It thrives only in warm to hot conditions. A greenhouse is ideal.

APRIL NOTES

Immature snails and slugs will be looking for succulent leaves on which to feed. Thwart them by destroying habitats, otherwise use a contact pesticide of salty water or vinegar and water (equal parts). Alternatively trap snails in old milk cartons (or pieces of drainage pipe with one end blocked). These makeshift habitats can be made more enticing with a sprinkling of bran or milled wheat deposited inside. Rather than harvest the whole of a leaf vegetable, cut or pull outside leaves progressively when approaching maturity. Do this for corn-salad, lettuce, celeriac, celery, chinese cabbage, cabbage, chard and spinach.

Excessive use of copper fungicides in orchards (against peach leaf curl etc) ends with a soil that is sterile from copper toxicity. A mat of vegetable litter remains undigested on the surface due to lack of earthworms and micro-organisms. By using KOCIDE spray at only 2 grams per litre of water, much less copper is falling as residue on the soil compared with the minimum amount of Bordeaux mixture needed, — 10 times as much!

You'll have the best luck with cabbages and other brassicas if you'll let them grow to edible size before they go through the cold winter in your garden. Plants that over winter in an immature state don't always flower and set seed reliably the following spring. Broccoli is unlike the other brassicas in that it produces flowers the *first* year. Broccoli will cross with Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauli, kale and kohlrabi if any are flowering simultaneously.

TOXIC FERTILIZER

Egyptian researchers found that fertilizing spinach heavily with soluble nitrogen increases the plant's content of poisonous oxalic acid and active oxalates. Silver beet and chard also contain oxalic acid. The concentrated sources of soluble nitrogen to be cautious of are found in liquid blood and bone, fresh animal or bird manures and their urine. However, any of these can be made acceptable by greatly diluting in water; try one in 10 (1:10) to (1:15).

STERILIZING SOIL FOR SEEDLINGS

A technique which is finding favour in the U.S.A. is to sterilise the surface of the seed-raising mixture (e.g. equal parts of sieved compost and sharp sand) with boiling water. Allow it to cool for 10 minutes before sowing the seed. This surface sterilization to a depth of one cm is said to be more effective than total sterilization by steam or oven drying. For sterilizing trays of seed-raising soil, fit a perforated bar to your watering can or use a rose accessory with small holes.