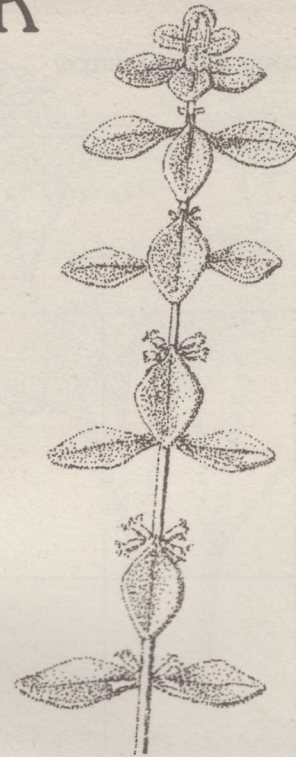


SEPTEMBER

SOWING GUIDE ACCORDING TO CLIMATE

WARM/HOT	MILD/TEMPERATE	COOL
Sow Beans	Sow Artichoke	Sow Artichoke
Beetroot	Asparagus	Asparagus
Cabbage	Beans	Beetroot
Capsicum	Beetroot	Cabbage
Carrot	Cabbage	Capsicum
Chicory	Capsicum	Carrot
Cucumber	Carrot	Celery
Endive	Celery	Chicory
Herbs	Chicory	Endive
Lettuce	Cucumber	Herbs
Marrow	Endive	Kohlrabi
Melon	Herbs	Leek
Okra	Kohlrabi	Lettuce
Parsnip	Leek	Parsnip
Potato	Lettuce	Peas
Pumpkin	Marrow	Potato
Radish	Melon	Pumpkin
Silverbeet.	Parsnip	Radish
Squash	Peas	Salsify
Sweet corn	Potato	Silverbeet
Tomato	Pumpkin	Squash
	Radish	Swede
	Silverbeet	Tomato
	Squash	Turnip
	Sweet corn	
	Tomato	



THYME has considerable medicinal qualities. A gargle is antiseptic for sore throats. Thyme tea should be sipped at the first sign of a head cold. There are some 15 varieties of thyme.

SEPTEMBER NOTES

Don't forget to harden-off any flower or vegie seedlings you are growing indoors before placing them in cold soil outdoors — they'll die otherwise. Expose them to progressively longer periods of outdoor weather for a fortnight. Beware also of long periods of overcast humid weather. Mildew, black spot, and blight are some typical fungal diseases that are encouraged by too many windless, humid days. Foliar feed with seaweed extract as a precaution.

Salsify is called the oyster vegetable because of its flavour. It is a light feeder so grow some now in soil which was manured for the preceding crop. They will still be gourmet food next spring!

Put all of your hard-to-rot cabbage stumps (crush them first) with other sundry tough stems, autumn leaves, barber's hair, wool or cotton shoddy etc. into a trench with a dusting of blood 'n' bone activator and dolomite-lime to counteract acidity. Replace the topsoil. You have made an old fashioned pea trench! Trample this down to fill in air pockets before sowing seeds of peas for a food crop or clover for green manure.

Early sowings of any seed going into cold soil should be shallow compared with warm weather sowing, e.g. September planted corn seed is planted no deeper than 2 cm, while November sowings can be 5 cm deep.

A premature flower stalk is called a "bolter". This is undesirable, as its seedlings — if allowed to seed — will be bolters too. Plants bolt for 3 main reasons: sown out of season; soil too dry; and unseasonal cold snap, or heatwave. Tall stalks carrying flowers or seed heads should be staked and tied against the wind; once drying off has commenced, plants can be removed and staked again in another sunny spot out of the way.

A COSMETIC PROBLEM

A large proportion of the pesticide problem, we are told officially, is caused by consumers. By demanding perfectly spotless fruit and vegetables, we are causing the commercial growers to spray constantly against pests and disease. Most conventional insecticides are of a systemic nature, so washing produce in bio-detergent or diluted vinegar is a waste of time, however the majority of fungicides are superficial and able to be rinsed off in such mediums.

THE STAGGERED GERMINATION FACTOR

Weed seeds have a germination inhibition factor which is a built-in genetic device against unfavourable or fluctuating climatic conditions. Hence the old expression "one year's seeding gives seven year's weeding". This staggered germination is common to all wild herbs and is the reason why we should never wittingly allow weeds or herbs carrying hundreds or thousands of seeds, to mature and escape into gardens, bushland or farms. When London was bombed during the Second World War, charlock seeds, centuries old were exposed to the air and took the opportunity to germinate. Needless to say, the staggered germination factor has been bred out of our crop plants.