

# OCTOBER

## SOWING GUIDE ACCORDING TO CLIMATE

### WARM/HOT

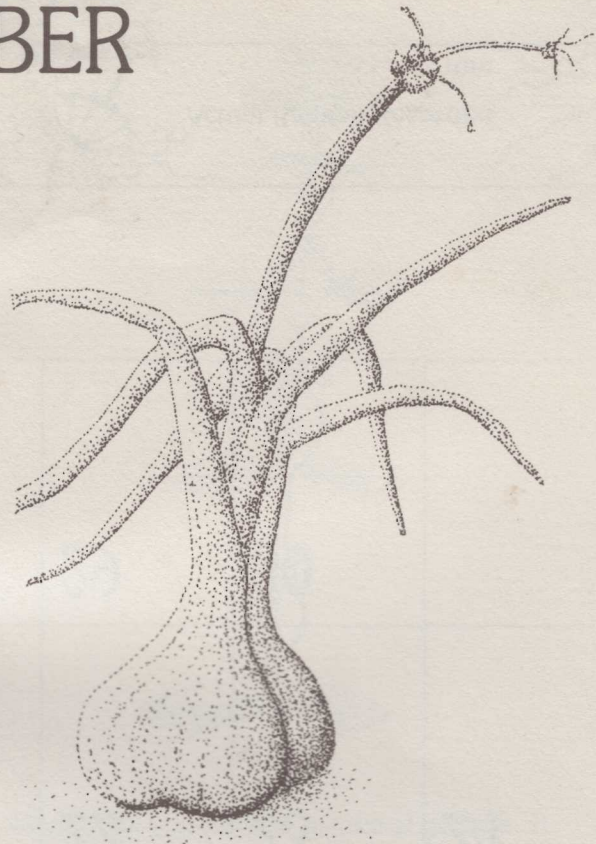
Sow Beans  
Beetroot  
Cabbage  
Capsicum  
Carrot  
Celery  
Cucumber  
Eggplant  
Herbs  
Lettuce  
Marrow  
Melon  
Okra  
Onion  
Pumpkin  
Radish  
Silverbeet  
Squash  
Sweet corn  
Sweet potato  
Tomato

### MILD/TEMPERATE

Sow Asparagus  
Beans  
Beetroot  
Cabbage  
Capsicum  
Carrot  
Celery  
Chicory  
Cucumber  
Eggplant  
Endive  
Herbs  
Leek  
Lettuce  
Marrow  
Melon  
Okra  
Parsnip  
Pumpkin  
Radish  
Silverbeet  
Squash  
Sweet corn  
Sweet potato  
Tomato

### COOL

Sow Asparagus  
Beans  
Beetroot  
Brussels sprouts  
Cabbage  
Capsicum  
Carrot  
Celery  
Chicory  
Cucumber  
Eggplant  
Endive  
Herbs  
Leek  
Lettuce  
Marrow  
Melon  
Okra  
Parsnip  
Peas  
Potato  
Pumpkin  
Radish  
Silverbeet  
Squash  
Sweet corn  
Tomato



*TREE ONION is an extremely hardy plant, with some part (bulb, stems or aerial bulbs) that can be used for most of the year.*

## OCTOBER NOTES

This is the month for transplanting most of the seedlings that you started off 5-7 weeks ago. Remove the container without disturbing the roots and gently firm into a moist garden bed. If you flood the area with copious amounts of water you may delay re-growth by a week in heavy soil conditions.

A succession of cold nights can not only delay celery, red beet, corn and chinese vegetables, but cause them to bolt prematurely. This is where cloching is helpful. A tunnel cloche made of plastic sheeting over hoops of wire or concrete reinforcing mesh can quickly be placed over a row crop for protection from frost and cold wind. It's tempting to fill up all beds with spring crops, instead of leaving spaces for succession plantings. Red beet, lettuce, corn and bush beans are crops I plant every month or two to ensure a continuity of food. Switch from winter to summer varieties of lettuce. The laying down of organic mulch to conserve moisture around seedlings can encourage worms to the surface. These in turn encourage birds — scenario which can prove disastrous. Put the mulch on when the seedlings have grown bigger.

Black passionfruit is a heavy feeding vine compared with a non-grafted banana passionfruit. The black variety will remain stunted, chlorotic and disappointing if grown in anything but a deeply fertile moist soil without competition from lawn plants or tree roots.

Do not attempt to save seed from hybrid plants because they are the result of cross-breeding two pure strain varieties. Any seed saved will either revert to one of the two parent varieties, or not be fertile. Nearly all cultivars of sweet corn have now been hybridised producing infertile seed. The typical F 1 hybrid vigour of vegetables (zucchini etc.) is relatively short lived at around 20 years for the first generation.

## SIMPLIFIED GARLIC SPRAY

It is hardly surprising that garlic, with its powerful antiseptic properties and high sulphur content, seems to make an effective fungicide. Soak one crushed clove of garlic in 570 ml of water overnight, then strain through panty-hose into a sprayer. The same solution could be sprayed over seed flats and garden drills to destroy damping-off disease — a fungus that strikes emerging seedlings. Warning: do not deliberately breathe the atomised spray of garlic. The mustard oil content is potentially damaging to the lungs.

## HERB FLAVOURED DRINKS

Young leaves of Borage & Mint steeped in clear apple juice, or in a punch based on cider or white wine, impart subtle flavours. Strain them out after several hours and serve. Elder flowers give a delightful fragrance to home-made lemonade. Try 2 or 3 flowerheads and a sliced lemon in 570 ml of (filtered) water for a few hours, strain and sweeten with honey.