

Q: I am ready to start planting my spring garden. What can I plant by seed?

A: If you have a planting bed ready (compost added, weeds all pulled, irrigation in place) you can direct seed the following herbs: Arugula, Chamomile, Chervil, Chives, Cilantro Cress Dill, Garlic chives, Parsley and Watercress. Vegetable crops that can be direct seeded this time of year include Beets, Broccoli, Broccoli Raab, Bulbing Fennel, Carrots, Chard, Greens, Kale, Leeks, Lettuce, Onions, Scallions, Pak Choi, Peas Radishes, and Spinach. If you are interested in flowers, the following can be planted now: Agrostemma, Alyssum, Bells of Ireland, Bishop's Lace, Calendula, Cornflowers, Cerinthe, Forget-me-nots, Larkspur, Lavatera, Nigella, Pappies, and Sweet Peas. Seeds need to be kept damp and protected from marauding snails and slugs. These can be controlled by nightly forays with a flashlight and a bowl of soapy water, with bands of copper tape which they do not like to cross, or with applications of iron sulphate baits.