

The Biodynamic Garden Around the Solstice

Long range weather forecast

After some substantial rains and thunderstorms end of May the weather continues with very changeable patterns of rain and sunny spells all through next week fed by low pressure areas from the Atlantic, with wettest conditions in the northwest, drier in the southeast.

The temperatures are very low this week with 8° degrees forecast for Wednesday in the South East; highs around 18° degrees, recovering towards the end of the week.

Strong winds may affect parts of the UK at times, especially the northwest.



Summer Solstice

Just two and a half weeks left until the Summer Solstice, the 21. June when the sun is above the horizon 16 hours and 39 minutes in the Southeast of Britain. That day we celebrate the longest day in the year.

So far it has been a slow growing year and it is hard to believe that we are approaching midsummer with all the rain and flooding we might have experienced up to now.

At the same time as the plants were growing very slowly, some of you might have experienced over-wintering and even spring sown plants go to flower and seed very quickly.

I had quite a few plants getting burned to death by the sun and dry wind even until 1 week ago.

After this and the extended dry spell, drought, for almost two months in March and April, I suggest, to sow successions as back-up in case this trend continues and to secure our Autumn and Winter garden being fully planted.

To curtail these extreme influences of the weather, assist your garden plants around sowing with horn manure preparation and during their growth as much as possible with the

biodynamic preparations of the Valerian (507), the field horsetail (508) and the horn silica (501) and feldspar preparation, which help to regulate and balance the growth with more extreme conditions this year.

As we are approaching the solstice it brings with it an increase in the flowering impulse and the risk of bolting if we sow or transplant vegetables close or during the solstice around the 21. June.

In my experience I experienced a flowering impulse when vegetables were sown around 4 days before and 4 days after the solstice. I would also avoid sowing or planting vegetables when the moon is in Apogee unless you grow flowers or tubers.

I recommend to sow from 1-14. & from the 28. June for 2 weeks.

I would avoid the early morning until 9am on the 7. June as the Moon is going through its ascending node.



Best days for sowing leaf crops are 9.-11. June before 12 pm

GREENHOUSE OR IN COLDFRAME: Brussels sprouts, Savoy cabbage, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, kale, kohlrabi, Chinese cabbage, pak choy and cress, onions, Florence fennel, Swiss Chard, leaf beet, lettuce, endive, radicchio, mustards, parsley, (in modules or boxes with pricking out and then transplanting them outdoors).

Direct sowing:

OUTSIDE: kohlrabi, Chinese cabbage, pak choy and cress, onions, Florence fennel, Swiss Chard, leaf beet, lettuce, endive, radicchio, mustards, fennel, parsley, Swiss chard, beetroot, onions, last carrots with radishes, black radish, swedes, turnips, summer endive.



Best day for sowing fruit crops is the 12. June

OUTSIDE: Peas, bush, French and runner beans, last outdoor courgetti (back-up for ones getting diseased, which were sown early).

Best days for sowing root crops are 13. & 14. June before 11 am.

OUTSIDE: Carrots, beetroot, radishes, black radish, turnips, rutabagas (swedes), parsley roots, onions.

Transplant from the 9. in the afternoon after 3 pm until the 14. June, unless you want to transplant flowering plants, then you can also on the 18 and 19. June:

OUTSIDE: Squash, pumpkins, marrow, sweet corn, pickling and ridge cucumber, cherry tomato, basil, autumn and winter cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, leek, courgette, cucumber, basil, last potatoes for Christmas, lettuce, kohlrabi, land cress.



Harvesting:

GREENHOUSE: Tomatoes, lettuces, kale, last spinach, Swiss Chard, parsley, early bush beans.

OUTSIDE: Broadbeans, peas, kohlrabi, early cabbage, Swiss chard, perpetual spinach, lettuce, spinach, rocket, radishes, parsley, Chinese cabbage, mustard greens, mizuna, turnip tops, kale, perennial kale, broccoli, parsley, garlic, first early carrots and potatoes.

With the last week's rains the natural herbs are germinating readily. Make sure you keep on top of them weeding them before the seedlings are even visible and weeding regularly.

Alas, it's time to start checking your slugs and snails, aphids and diseases on plants frequently to catch them early for treatment.

I hope you can enjoy these next couple of weeks of increasing light and don't mind the variable weather.

With imminent summer thoughts,
Hans-Günther