

# May Vegetable and Herb Gardening Calendar for Arid Climate Australia

May is the last month of autumn, when the weather starts cooling down, but there are still sunny days. There may be frosts in inland areas.

This is a time for pruning, taking cuttings for propagation, dividing perennials, and planting new trees, shrubs and vines. The soil is still warm enough for moving and relocating plants around the garden.

It's also the time to clean up the garden, to remove all the dead and dried leaves, branches and plants, which is a great source of organic matter for mulching and composting!

## Things to Do This Month:

- Continue planting new trees, shrubs, climbers, annuals and perennials.
- Continue gathering and composting autumn leaves.
- Plant cool season green manure crops (such as rapeseed, broad beans, fenugreek, linseed, lupins, mustard, oats, subclover, and vetch), which will be cut down and dug into the soil in spring.
- Continue collecting and sowing seeds from berry producing trees and shrubs.
- Continue lifting and dividing overgrown perennial plants.
- Continue planting garlic, plant strawberry runners.
- Continue pruning brambleberries after they finish fruiting – cut out the canes that have fruited, and tie in the newly grown canes to the support wires on the berry trellises.
- Winter pruning of deciduous trees and shrubs can be done in autumn or winter, and can begin now.
- Check citrus for galls caused by gall wasp and slice one side of galls or prune to remove.
- Repair trellises now that leaves have fallen from deciduous plants, allowing better access.
- Check tree ties, stakes and supports. Install windbreaks and tree guards around vulnerable plants.
- Relocate evergreen shrubs (can be done either in autumn and early spring).
- Lift rooted hardwood cuttings produced last autumn (the year before) and plant them out to a permanent location.
- Some perennial plants with long fleshy roots such as horseradish can be propagated by root cuttings, take root cuttings from this time in late autumn until late winter.
- Propagate rhubarb by lifting root, divide it so each piece has one or more buds and replant.
- Harvest and store root crops - continue lifting beetroot and carrots.
- Ponds should be cleaned of old plants, and overgrown marginal plants around the pond can be divided.



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## Vegetables and Herbs to Grow in May (Arid Climate)

May Seeds to Sow and Seedlings to Plant (Arid Climate Australia)	Sow/Plant	Harvest (weeks)
Beetroot	dst	7-10
Broad Beans	dst	12-22
Broccoli	st	10-16
Burdock	d	17-18
Cabbage	t	8-15
Carrot	d	12-18
Cauliflower	st	15-22
Celery	s	17-18
Chicory	s	16-24
Chinese Cabbage	st	8-10
Collard Greens	dst	8-11
Dill	s	8-12
Endive	dst	10-11
Garlic	plant cloves	17-25
Jerusalem Artichokes	plant tubers	15-20
Kale	dst	7-9
Kohlrabi	dt	7-10
Leeks	t	15-18
Lemon Balm	s	8-10
Lettuce	dst	8-12
Mustard Greens	dst	5-8
Onion	t	25-34
Pak Choy	dst	6-11
Parsley	dt	9-19
Parsnip	d	17-20
Peas	dst	9-11
Radish	d	5-7
Rocket	d	21-35 days
Silverbeet (Swiss Chard)	dst	7-12
Snow Peas	dst	12-14
Spinach	dst	5-11
Strawberry (seed)	s	12 months
Strawberry (plants)	t	11
Swedes (Rutabaga)	dst	10-14
Thyme	s	42-52
Turnip	d	6-9

### Key:

d = sow seeds directly into ground

s = sow seeds into seed tray



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ds = sow seeds directly into ground or seed tray

t = transplant seedlings (small plants) into larger pots or plant into ground

\*= frost tender

\*\*= sow after frost



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