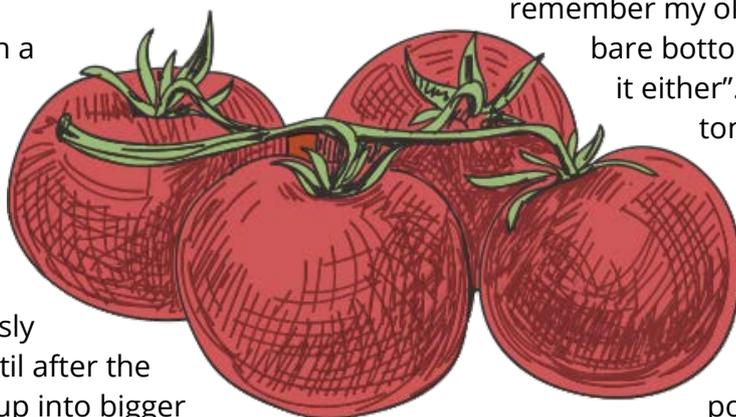


For success in growing vegetables, it is important to time the planting of seeds and seedlings to take advantage of seasonal conditions most favourable for their growth. This past season has been different from the past ones I have experienced here in Beechworth. Like last year it came in unseasonably warm early, after a winter of very little rain, we had ½ what we usually experience during winter. Now we are having a cold snap and getting some much-needed rain and even this morning there was a heavy dew on the grass. I am sure like me this has not stopped you from being busy in your garden.

Spring tends to be the busiest time of the year. Last month it was getting soils ready to plant with summer crops, digging n cover crops and seeding for summer. I have started planting out some seedlings and seeds directly into my gardens and will continue seed growing and transplanting out the new seedlings about every 6 weeks. This will enable us to have a continuous supply of fresh, nutritious veg all summer and beyond.

In my younger days, I remember planting out heaps and having a glut being amazed at the glut I didn't plant a continuous supply and so come autumn and winter I was looking for the supermarket or greengrocer. Arhh the things you learn.

In Beechworth and surrounds many gardeners do not plant out frost sensitive seedlings until after the Melbourne Cup. I remember my old Dad saying "if you can't sit on the ground with a bare bottom then you should not put it either". Wise words, for as it turns out tomato plants get even a small knock from late frosts they fail to thrive and become more difficult to yield. Beans can be put into this class also and fast grown sweet and tender. So maybe hold off until after the last frost. There is nothing to stop you planting up into bigger pots and when you do plant, plant deeply.



Lettuce and chard are among the veggies that will grow well in spring but need to be covered if temperatures dip much below freezing.

These are some semi-hardy vegetables tolerate light frosts that are good for spring gardens.

Beets	Potatoes
Carrot	Lettuce and gourmet salad greens
Cauliflower	Radicchio
Celery	Rutabaga
Chinese cabbage	Salsify
Endive	Swiss chard*

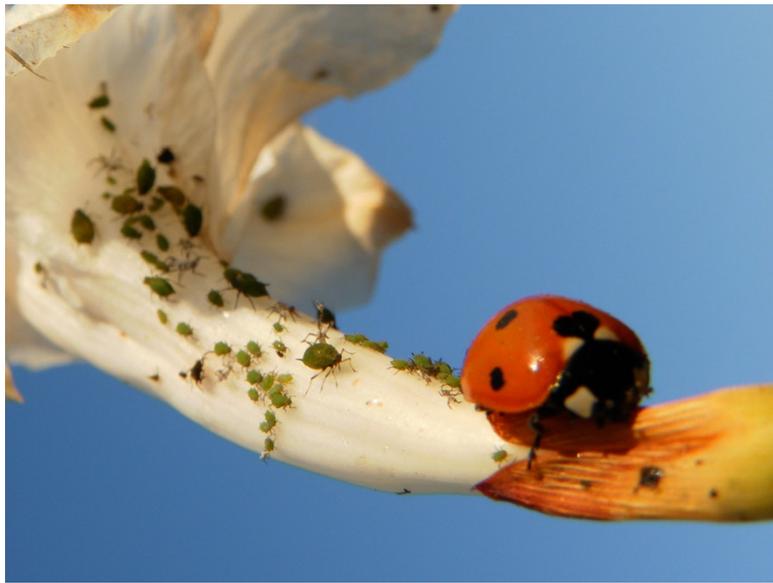
*Swiss chard and collards taste best in the cool of spring but will hang on during the summer heat, too.

Have you noticed the amazing number of aphids around? I certainly have some here, cheeky little sods were even up on my patio, where I am growing some alpine strawberries having a chew at the young fleshy growth. Well, I disposed of them quickly with a jet of water from the hose. Natural pest control is by encouraging Hoverflies and Lady Bugs/Birds into your garden. Lady Bugs/Birds like to overwinter in the fallen leaves and bark in your garden. Apart from aphids they also like pollen. The young ones love umbrella-shaped flowers, and now which small child doesn't like an umbrella, such as fennel, dill, coriander, caraway, tansy, yarrow, carrots, Queen Anne's Lace. But cosmos especially the white one, coreopsis and scented geraniums and dandelions also attract and feed them. Looking at that list you have a good reason now to have an untidier garden. Apart from planting attractive plants in the garden, you can also promote ladybug populations by the elimination of spraying insecticides.

Not only are most synthetic the majority of their they won't lay their As difficult as it may to live on certain to ensure that there ladybugs. In addition, squish bugs & eggs you're certain that beneficial.

Another beneficial problem is you will find either in

or in sheltered spots in your garden such as, nooks and crannies of old trees and will come out at the first sign of a warm day searching for aphid infested plants on which to lay their eggs. The lava of this insect has a voracious appetite for aphids.



ladybugs sensitive to insecticides, but if food source is gone, eggs in your garden. be, allowing aphids plants is necessary is enough food for resist the urge to in the garden, unless they are not

insect for your aphid hoverflies. These the ground as lava