

May in flowers

Seeds to sow

If you have been busy in March & April, you probably have plenty of annuals either growing in the ground or ready to be planted out. If you don't, there is still plenty of time, but I am going to add biennials to the list. Biennials fill in the 'May gap' between the end of the tulips and the start of the summer flower season and they are worth giving a bit of time and space to in this busy month of May.

BIENNIALS

- / Icelandic poppies
- / *Anthriscus sylvestris* 'Ravenswing'
- / Nicotiana
- / Foxgloves
- / Honesty
- / Sweet rocket (*Hesperis*)
- / Aquilegia (Technically a short lived perennial and I do sow seed in January, but they work well as a biennial too)
- / Hollyhocks (also technically a short lived perennial but growing as a biennial minimises rust)
- / Sweet williams
- / Teasels

Also:

- / One last sowing of sweet peas

Flowers to harvest

- / The last tulips
- / Peonies
- / Sweet rocket (*Hesperis*)
- / Honesty
- / Foxgloves
- / Wallflowers
- / Aquilegia

Other jobs for this month

- / Water, weed & nurture. Everything autumn or early spring sown should be in the ground by now and this is the month for many of your plants to really put on growth.
- / Stake. Offer support with hazel twigs and branches or nets and string if plants need it. Tie sweet peas into trellis or a teepee.
- / Pot up dahlia tubers in peat-free multipurpose compost and get them growing before you plant them out at the end of the month.
- / Have supper outdoors. Go for a long walk in woodland.
- / Leave any lawn you have to grow wild.