



Tips for the Winter Garden: Raising Seedlings

Now is the time to get those winter vegetable seeds going.... Beetroot, rocket, coriander, carrots can all be planted directly into the garden. Cover the seeds with twice as much soil as seed size. ie tiny seeds just need a thin covering. Keep moist and cover with netting to stop the birds and cats scratching up. If you don't have netting to hand then cover with a damp hessian sack or banana leaves etc but check regularly and remove when the little seeds start to emerge.

Brassicas such as Kale, Broccoli, Cauliflower, Cabbages, and Leeks, spinach, broad beans, sugar snaps, lettuce will need to be raised in seed trays first.

If you couldn't buy seed raising mix before lockdown then make your own using 50:50 garden soil and compost. Add a handful of worm castings if you have some, and some leaf mold will help retain moisture (coconut coir is also good but most of us don't have this on hand). Sieve your soil and compost to remove any big bits as you want a fine mix for the seeds to easily send out their roots. If your soil is very heavy, then add some sand. Commercial seed raising mix is weed free but yours may not be, so it's a good idea to allow a week for weed seeds to germinate first. The weeds can then be removed before planting your vege seeds.

