



WEEKLY GARDEN GUIDANCE - MID MAY IN THE CRD

Hello again! We are now into mid-May, and the combination of the hot days and rainy spells is translating into EXPLODING GROWTH. It is a very exciting time in the garden. And, if time is short for you, it can also get a little overwhelming.

The key to enjoying it is: do small amounts of gardening, a little at a time. I have a young child who takes my attention when awake, and so I like to get up early, make myself a cup of tea, and wander around the plots. The garden tells me what to do: a bit of weeding here... (I can get to that right now!)... a plan to trellis up the peas later today (maybe tomorrow)... a plant in dire need of some fertilizer... (reminder to start some manure tea).

I do a bit more gardening through the day, as I can. I don't go out with a plan usually...just head out with my garden boots and a curious eye. That keeps it a fun discovery. Try to avoid getting into a "to-do-list" mentality with gardening; rather, notice the wonder and curiosity of it all. If you aren't feeling that yet, PLANT BEANS. They are incredible to watch growing!

At this time of year, a bit of daily attention to stay on top of the weeding and planting and thinning sets you up very nicely for an abundant harvest in a few weeks time!

Please, don't forget to thin. It's super important. Plants need space to grow. I know it is hard to pull out those baby plants, but if you don't, they will be all too crowded, and no one will thrive.

Each plant has different space requirements, so just google "How far apart do you thin carrots?" (for example) to get the measurements.

In terms of WHAT to plant out now: check out the advice in last weeks blog post (see the button at the end of this post). We are still hovering around that 8 to 10 degree nighttime temperature. This means that the tomatoes can handle it, but the bit of extra chill will mean setback (delayed growth). If you can manage to wait until nighttime temperatures climb to the double digits, they will thank you for it. Or, you can cloche them for some extra protection (try a DIY 2L pop bottle cloche).

Same story with your heat lovers: basil, cucumber, squash, zucchini, eggplant, peppers: these are all LESS coldy hardy than tomato plants. This means that they want the predictable, reliable summer heat (with no cold snaps) of June and onwards.

Check out this planting chart: <https://www.westcoastseeds.com/pages/regional-planting-charts>

So by all means, start these inside for transplanting out in June, but it is still too cold for them to brave those slightly chilly nights!

If your gardening enthusiasm is so strong that you just can't bear to wait, then cloche those wee plants overnight, and **pull off the cloche in the heat of the day (or they may sizzle)**.

There is more advice in the previous blog post (click the button below)...so make sure that you browse through there as well!

enjoy!