

## BEST TIME TO SOW FOR THE SHOW

It's not too late to sew seeds to enter the Brinkworth village show.

If you are unsure when to sew seeds, there are some useful calendars online.

For flowers: [www.suttons.co.uk/growing-guide-pdfs/suttons-sowing-charts.pdf](http://www.suttons.co.uk/growing-guide-pdfs/suttons-sowing-charts.pdf)

For vegetables: [www.rhs.org.uk/advice/pdfs/crop-planner.pdf](http://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/pdfs/crop-planner.pdf)

Some of the village show categories are for established plants, some for annuals grown this year.

For those that can be grown from seed/tuber this year:

- Sunflowers – sew beginning of April to end of May. Can be sewn directly in the ground in late May or earlier under glass in pots.
- Gladioli – these are grown from corms. Timing is quite tricky, but planting April/May might be OK for the show – I nearly always get my timings wrong!
- Sweet Peas – these can be sewn until June. I find early sowings can be finished before show day.
- Dahlias – usually grown from tubers. I start early under glass and take cuttings. You can start this from February but only plant out in May after the last frosts.
- Zinnias – March to May, I start in seed trays.
- Antirrhinums (snap dragons) – January to April.
- Potatoes – sew seed potatoes at the end of March for the show.
- Beetroot – harder to time, I suggest planting several times from May to mid-June for the show.
- French beans - plant in May in pots, plant out in June. They love heat so no point starting too early, they just sulk.
- Cucumbers, tomatoes and peppers – can be planted from February in a heated greenhouse, but April/May plantings should be ready for the show (ideally chillies should be sewn January-March)
- Carrots- ideally plant in early April.
- Parsnips - often seed packets say OK to plant in March, but germination can be unreliable, better planted in April.
- Courgettes – can be planted in May in pots and transferred to the garden in June.
- Onions, leeks and shallots - many options for when to plant depending on variety. I've started planting overwintering onions in October. However, some varieties can be planted April/May for the show.

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