

# Winter gardening tips

**The star constellations of Te waka o Rangi and Matariki (pleiades) have set in the west, Tamanuiterā (the sun) journeys across the sky on his shorter path to Hinetakurua (sirius), and we can all feel that winter has truly arrived.**

As soil temperatures drop, growth has really slowed down in the garden. If you didn't plant winter veggies like broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower, it's not too late, but just know they won't grow much until spring hits.

Broad beans germinate best in winter, and their seed is easily planted straight into the ground. Don't let them get leathery and grey. Pick them smaller, as sweet, young green things – they taste more like peas and can be eaten raw or lightly fried or steamed. Broad beans don't need good soil, but they will improve the soil for the next crop. Plant them where you plan to put tomatoes in spring, and they'll not only add nitrogen into the soil but can be

cut down and used as straw mulch to protect the young tomato seedlings in October. As gardeners we are always thinking ahead about how we can improve soil for the next season of growing and it is vital that we become aware of the changing seasons.

**Plant out:** broad beans (seed), broccoli, cabbage, garlic, kale, lettuce, mesclun, pak choi, radishes, snow peas and strawberries.

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Gardening tips thanks to  
Common Unity Project Aotearoa  
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