

# IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO PLANT CARROTS, LETTUCE, BEETS, BEANS

## THERE IS STILL PLENTY OF TIME TO PLAN FOR A BOUNTIFUL FALL HARVEST, WRITE MARK AND BEN CULLEN



MARK AND BEN CULLEN  
Column

will be important for your tomatoes and potatoes. Bordo is a copper-based spray that is organic-approved.

Before the end of June be sure to stake your tomato plants with a spiral stake, which are easy to use, permanent and reduces the need to hold the plants up with a string. Getting your tomato crop off the ground will double your crop and dramatically reduce disease.

Another important treatment this spring is End-All and Garden Sulphur on the fruit orchard every two weeks until the end of summer. Those sweet apples are attractive to so many pests, and the leaves to disease, so this is one area

As we approach the longest day of the year, we can almost hear the plants growing. There is still plenty of time to direct sow carrots, beets, beans, leaf lettuce, bib lettuce, mesclun mix, radishes for a continuous harvest into the fall.

If you are finding your grilling lacks zest, plant up some container herbs for the sunny spot on your patio. Dill, mint and coriander should get their own planters, or they risk taking over the whole show.

This month, bordo spray



Mike and Ben Cullen share some tips for growing vegetables in your summer garden in this week's column.

Mike and Ben Cullen

of the garden where the "hands-off" approach is not going to get you where you want to go.

Remember to treat cucumbers and squash with diatomaceous earth (silicon dioxide), to control

beetles.

Avoid the temptation to cut back or harvest what is left of your rhubarb and asparagus. Leaving the "green" on these plants to die back naturally is essential for returning energy in-

to the roots for next year's harvest. Spring flowering bulbs can have their foliage removed now without affecting the flowering potential next year.

Apply 5 cm of compost to onions, leeks and garlic

which are absorbing soil-born nutrients to fuel their growth. Compost can simply be left on the surface of the soil for earthworms to mobilize, no need to dig it in. This is also a great time of year to heap on that mulch. Ben remains loyal to straw, with about 20 cm or so going down on his veggies, and Mark applies 12 cm of finely ground bark mulch. It just so happens that Ben has more farmer friends, and Mark knows more arborists.

*Mark Cullen is an expert gardener, author, broadcaster, tree advocate and Member of the Order of Canada. His son Ben is a fourth-generation urban gardener and graduate of University of Guelph and Dalhousie University in Halifax. Follow them at markcullen.com, @markcullengardening, and on Facebook.*

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