UK Herb Planting Calendar

When to sow, plant and harvest 10 easy herbs · A free guide from Elderberry Herbal · Nov 25, 2026

Most of these herbs are sown or planted in spring and harvested from late spring to early autumn. The table below gives the timings at a glance, and the month-by-month list tells you what to do and when.

Timings are for most of England and Wales. In Scotland, the north or colder gardens, sow and plant out 2 to 3 weeks later. Wait until the risk of frost has passed, usually mid to late May, before putting tender young plants outside.

At a Glance

Herb	Sow seeds	Plant out	Harvest	Life span
Peppermint	Buy plants (seed is unreliable)	Apr to May, in a pot	May to Sep	Perennial
Lemon balm	Mar to Apr, indoors	May	May to Sep	Perennial
German chamomile	Apr to May, direct in the ground	Not needed	Flowers Jun to Aug	Annual
Calendula	Mar to May, direct in the ground	Not needed	Flowers Jun to Oct	Annual
Thyme	Mar to Apr, indoors, or buy plants	May	All year, best May to Sep	Perennial
Rosemary	Buy plants (slow from seed)	Apr to May	All year	Perennial
Sage	Mar to Apr, indoors	May	Apr to Oct	Perennial
Chives	Mar to May	Apr to Jun	Leaves Mar to Oct, flowers May to Jun	Perennial
Lavender	Feb to Apr, indoors, or buy plants	Apr to May	Flowers Jun to Aug	Perennial
Elder	Buy a bare-root shrub	Nov to Mar	Flowers May to Jun, berries Aug to Sep	Perennial shrub

Month by Month

Month	Jobs
January	Plant bare-root elder. Plan your herb patch and order seeds.
February	Sow lavender indoors on a warm windowsill. Finish planting elder.
March	Sow lemon balm, thyme and sage indoors. Sow chives and calendula. Pick the first chive leaves.
April	Sow chamomile and calendula outside. Buy mint, rosemary and thyme plants. Start picking sage.
May	Plant out indoor-sown herbs once frosts have passed. Start picking mint, lemon balm and thyme. Elderflowers begin late in the month.
June	Pick chive flowers for blossom vinegar. Make elderflower cordial. Pick calendula and chamomile flowers.
July	Harvest and dry herbs in the morning, once the dew has dried. Pick lavender as the flowers open. Keep pots watered.
August	Keep picking calendula and chamomile. Trim lavender lightly after flowering. Elderberries start to ripen.
September	Pick ripe elderberries and make syrup. Take rosemary, sage and lavender cuttings. Sow calendula and chamomile for early flowers next year.
October	Last big harvest of mint and lemon balm. Cut back mint and lemon balm. Pick the last calendula.
November	Plant bare-root elder. Move potted rosemary and thyme to a sheltered spot.
December	Pick rosemary and thyme sparingly for winter cooking. Rest and plan for spring.

Growing Tips

- **Pick little and often.** Regular picking keeps most herbs bushy and productive.
- **Grow mint in a pot.** It spreads fast and will take over a bed.
- **Drainage matters.** Thyme, rosemary, sage and lavender hate wet roots, especially in winter. Add grit to pots.
- **Dry your harvest** by hanging small bunches upside down somewhere warm, dry and out of direct sun. Store in labelled jars.
- **Elderberries must always be cooked** before eating. Never eat them raw.

For how to use each herb, see my free guide *10 Easy Herbs to Grow and Use at Home* at elderberryherbal.com.

Disclaimer: This calendar is for general gardening guidance. Timings vary with your location and the weather. Information about using herbs is for education only and is not medical advice.

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