

parsnips.

Sow: You must use fresh seed every year. Sow from first week of March onwards under cloches, 1cm deep and 6in apart. Germination is very slow.

Soil: Grow on stone-free ground manured for previous crop. Dig in a green manure beforehand if soil is poor. Prefers sandy soil.

Sun: Full sun or light shade.

Grow: Requires very little work. Weed and ensure crop is well-watered.

Harvest: After the first frosts. Can be left in the ground until February.

Problems: Canker is the main problem: grow varieties such as 'Avonresister' and 'Gladiator'. Carrot fly may attack: cover with fleece if this pest is prevalent on your site.

For more advice on growing and cooking parsnips, visit the Stylish Gardening Blog: fennelandfern.co.uk