

June – Gardening Calendar for Temperate Australia

(<http://deepgreenpermaculture.com/>)

June brings us the start of winter, with colder, wetter weather, but there are still some sunny days to be had, winter vegies to harvest, and some tidying up to do around the garden.

As deciduous trees and shrubs shed their leaves and become dormant, it's a good time to both plant new ones and prune existing ones. Winter pruning of deciduous fruit trees and grape vines begins now.

Harsh cold winds can be a problem, drying out plants very quickly, so it's important to put up windbreaks such as plastic sleeve tree guards or shadecloth around young evergreen trees to prevent wind burn.

In frost-prone areas, vulnerable plants will need to be protected. When frost is anticipated, cover the plant overnight with hessian, shadecloth, plastic sheet, cardboard, straw or newspaper - make sure that the cover is not airtight and that air can still circulate.

Things to Do This Month:

- Plant deciduous trees, shrubs, vines and cane fruits (and roses!). Wait till spring for planting citrus.
- Divide existing perennials and plant new perennials.
- Gather and compost fallen leaves.
- Protect plants that are not frost-hardy in frost-prone areas.
- Install windbreaks, such as the plastic tree guard sleeves, around newly planted evergreens.
- Prune deciduous fruit trees (*not apricots, best to prune these in late autumn when the leaves start yellowing, during dry, preferably windy weather to prevent diseases entering the pruning cuts*). To prune fruit trees, first cut away any dead or diseased wood, then cut away any branches growing inwards towards the centre or crossing other branches (to prevent rubbing and bark damage), and finally, prune tree to shape using the appropriate technique for that species.
- Prune deciduous shrubs (rose pruning is done in July!) and vines (such as kiwi fruit).
- Prune grape vines and take hardwood cuttings from these for propagation.
- Finish pruning currants and gooseberries and take hardwood cuttings from these for propagation.
- Prune tall shrubs to reduce height to better resist winter winds.
- Relocate any deciduous plants (trees, shrubs, vines) or herbaceous perennial plants growing in the wrong place in winter. (*Evergreens can only be moved in autumn and early spring, where they have time to regrow roots – remember, they retain leaves in winter which transpire and lose water!*).
- Collect and sow seeds from berry producing trees and shrubs.
- Some perennials can be propagated from root cuttings, which can be taken through winter.
- Continue propagation of hardwood cuttings which began in autumn - prune off 30cm long shoots of current season's growth, cut off the soft growing tip, cut off the bottom end below a bud, and dip end into rooting hormone. Make a 'slit trench' by pushing a spade into soil and rocking it back and forth. In clay soil, add some coarse sand for drainage. Put cuttings in so 2/3 is below the soil, and press the soil down around them. Cuttings will root and be ready to plant next autumn.
- Continue planting garlic, strawberry runners and shallot bulbs.
- Harvest parsnips, they will taste the better now that they have experienced some cold.

Vegetables and Herbs to Sow:

Sow in June		Harvest (weeks)	Sow in June		Harvest (weeks)
Broad beans	d	12-22	Radish	d	5-7
Garlic	d	17-25	Shallot <i>bulbs</i>	d	12-15
Lettuce	ds	8-12	Snow Peas	d	12-14
Mustard greens	d	5-8	Strawberry runners	d	11
Onion	ds	25-34	Strawberries (seed)	s	12 months
Peas	d	9-11			

Key: d = sow directly into ground, s = sow in seed tray, ds = sow directly into ground or seed tray

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It's July, Midwinter has arrived! As all of Nature's energies turn inwards, and life comes to a standstill, we finally have a chance to rest and reflect too. This month temperatures will hit their lowest for the year, rain will fall for half the month, and the windiest time of the year in Melbourne begins.

There are still a limited range of seeds to sow, and lots of opportunity for winter pruning, relocating deciduous plants and planting new ones!

Things to Do This Month:

- Plant deciduous trees, shrubs, vines and cane fruits. Wait till spring for planting citrus.
- Divide existing perennials and plant new perennials.
- Protect plants that are not frost-hardy in frost-prone areas. Frost-tender plants in pots are more vulnerable as roots are above ground, wrap pots of plants with plastic bubble-wrap or hessian.
- Install windbreaks, such as the plastic tree guard sleeves, around newly planted evergreens.
- Prune deciduous fruit trees (*not apricots, best to prune these in late autumn when the leaves start yellowing, during dry, preferably windy weather to prevent diseases entering the pruning cuts*). To prune fruit trees, first cut away any dead or diseased wood, then cut away any branches growing inwards towards the centre or crossing other branches (to prevent rubbing and bark damage), and finally, prune tree to shape using the appropriate technique for that species.
- Prune deciduous shrubs (and it's rose pruning time in July too!)
- Finish pruning grape vines and take hardwood cuttings from these for propagation.
- Finish pruning currants and gooseberries and take hardwood cuttings from these for propagation.
- Apply organic fertiliser to fruit trees at the end of July, so that the slowly released nutrients will become available when the new growth commences.
- Spray peaches and nectarines to protect against leaf curl fungus. Use lime sulphur or a copper fungicide at the bud swell stage (just before the buds begin to open) but before pink bud stage or colour shows. It is too late to spray once flowering occurs.
- If you use horticultural glue bands on tree trunk to prevent winter insects crawling up the tree to lay their eggs, now is the time to replace the glue bands with new ones.
- Relocate any deciduous plants (trees, shrubs, vines) or herbaceous perennial plants growing in the wrong place in winter. (*Evergreens can only be moved in autumn and early spring, where they have time to regrow roots – remember, they retain leaves in winter which transpire and lose water!*).
- Sow seeds from berry producing trees and shrubs. Stratification (exposure to cold) over winter will break seed dormancy.
- Some perennials can be propagated from root cuttings, which can be taken through winter.
- Continue propagation of hardwood cuttings which began in autumn - prune off 30cm long shoots of current season's growth, cut off the soft growing tip, cut off the bottom end below a bud, and dip end into rooting hormone. Make a 'slit trench' by pushing a spade into soil and rocking it back and forth. In clay soil, add some coarse sand for drainage. Put cuttings in so 2/3 is below the soil, and press the soil down around them. Cuttings will root and be ready to plant next autumn.
- Continue planting strawberry runners and shallot bulbs.

Vegetables and Herbs to Sow:

Sow in July		Harvest (weeks)	Sow in July		Harvest (weeks)
Beetroot	ds	7-10	Radish	d	5-7
Lettuce	ds	8-12	Shallots	d	12-15
Mustard greens	d	5-8	Snow Peas	d	12-14
Onion	ds	25-34	Strawberry runners	d	11
Peas	d	9-11	Strawberries (seed)	s	12 months

Key: d = sow directly into ground, s = sow in seed tray, ds = sow directly into ground or seed tray