

February – Gardening Calendar by Angelo Eliades

<http://deepgreenpermaculture.com/>

February is the last month of summer, and it's still a fairly dry time of the year in Melbourne, so water deeply and less often during dry periods to encourage roots to grow down, making plants less vulnerable to heat and drought.

Take advantage of the hot dry weather to do weeding, and lay the weeds on top of the soil to dry out and become mulch, but remove and dispose of the seeding parts first.

Things to Do This Month:

- Summer pruning of fruit trees, cut new green growth by half to maintain size.
- Feed citrus trees, and top up mulch (use compost or old manure) over roots, keeping clear of trunk.
- Cut and dry herbs for winter use.
- Collect ripening seeds for plants you wish to propagate.
- Divide perennials towards the end of the month, or if in drought, leave till March.
- Sow cool season green manure crops, such as Broad Beans, Fenugreek, Linseed, Lupins, Mustard, Oats and Vetch, then dug in during autumn before flowering.
- Last chance to sow warm season green manure crops, such as Buckwheat, Cowpea, Japanese Millet, Mung Bean, Mustard, Soybean
- Prune summer fruiting raspberries – after fruit is picked, cut out old canes and tie new canes (that have grown this year) to supports.
- Keep an eye on water gardens and ponds, water levels can get low due to evaporation. Aquatic plants can become overgrown and require thinning at this time of year.
- Propagation of semi-hardwood (semi-ripe) cuttings is done in mid-late summer, use rooting hormone, and plant in moist commercial propagation mix, or make your own with one part coarse propagating sand (washed river sand) and one part peat or coconut coir.

Vegetables and Herbs to Sow:

Sow in February		Harvest (weeks)	Sow in February		Harvest (weeks)	Sow in February		Harvest (weeks)
Beetroot	<i>ds</i>	7-10	Cress	<i>d</i>	2-3	Potato <i>tubers</i>	<i>d</i>	15-20
Brussel Sprouts	<i>ds</i>	14-28	Endive	<i>ds</i>	10-11	Radish	<i>d</i>	5-7
Broccoli	<i>ds</i>	10-16	Kohlrabi	<i>d</i>	7-10	Rhubarb <i>crowns</i>	<i>d</i>	12 mths
Buckwheat	<i>d</i>	8-12	Leeks	<i>ds</i>	15-18	Salad Burnett	<i>ds</i>	6-8
Cabbage	<i>ds</i>	8-15	Lettuce	<i>ds</i>	8-12	Salsify	<i>d</i>	14-21
Caraway	<i>d</i>	24 mths	Mustard Greens	<i>d</i>	5-8	Shallot <i>bulbs</i>	<i>d</i>	12-15
Carrots	<i>d</i>	12-18	Oats	<i>d</i>	8-12	Silverbeet	<i>ds</i>	7-12
Cauliflower	<i>ds</i>	15-22	Onions	<i>ds</i>	25-34	Swedes	<i>d</i>	10-14
Chervil	<i>d</i>	6-8	Spring Onions	<i>d</i>	6-10	Turnip	<i>d</i>	6-9
Chicory	<i>d</i>	8	Parsley	<i>ds</i>	9-19			
Chinese Cabbage	<i>ds</i>	8-10	Parsnip	<i>d</i>	17-20			

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

March – Gardening Calendar by Angelo Eliades

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March heralds the beginning of autumn, so there's lots of tidying up in the garden. It's also an ideal time to plant new trees, as the weather is milder and there is some time for the trees to establish themselves before winter arrives.

Pick marrows, pumpkins and squash before the flesh becomes coarse. Only pick pumpkins when fully ripe (no green skin or stem), cut when stalk begins turning brown and withers.

It's also time to lift root crops such as beetroot, carrots onions potatoes and turnips for storage and winter use. Leave parsnips in ground, they need some cold to taste the best.

If tomatoes have not ripened, the plants can be laid down flat on the ground and covered with a cloche (plastic covered frame) to speed up ripening. Plant garlic now, as it prefers a period of cold weather to grow well

Things to Do This Month:

- Compost autumn leaves.
- Collect perennial seeds and divide overgrown perennial plants.
- Sow cool season green manure crops, such as rapeseed, broad beans, fenugreek, linseed, lupins, mustard, oats, subclover and vetch, then dug in during autumn before flowering.
- Start planting new trees, shrubs, climbers, annuals and perennials – remember to water them regularly until they establish.
- Relocate evergreen shrubs (can be done either in autumn and early spring).
- Harvest autumn bearing raspberries, but leave canes unpruned till late winter-early spring
- Finish pruning canes that have fruited from summer fruiting raspberries.
- Prune blackcurrants and other brambleberries from now till winter.
- Plant new strawberries
- Remove autumn leaves from ponds and water gardens and thin out aquatic plants
- Stop feeding container plants
- Cut down asparagus foliage as it starts turning yellow and mulch the plants generously
- Net trees to protect fruit from birds

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Sow in March		Harvest (weeks)	Sow in March		Harvest (weeks)	Sow in March		Harvest (weeks)
Beetroot	<i>ds</i>	7-10	Garlic <i>clove</i>	<i>d</i>	17-25	Potato <i>tubers</i>	<i>d</i>	15-20
Broad Beans	<i>d</i>	12-22	Kohlrabi	<i>d</i>	7-10	Radish	<i>d</i>	5-7
Broccoli	<i>ds</i>	10-16	Leeks	<i>ds</i>	15-18	Salad Burnett	<i>ds</i>	6-8
Buckwheat	<i>d</i>	8-12	Lettuce	<i>ds</i>	8-12	Salsify	<i>d</i>	14-21
Cabbage	<i>ds</i>	8-15	Mizuna	<i>d</i>	5-7	Shallot <i>bulbs</i>	<i>d</i>	12-15
Caraway	<i>d</i>	24 mths	Mustard Greens	<i>d</i>	5-8	Silverbeet	<i>ds</i>	7-12
Carrots	<i>d</i>	12-18	Oats	<i>d</i>	8-12	Spinach	<i>d</i>	5-11
Cauliflower	<i>ds</i>	15-22	Onions	<i>ds</i>	25-34	Strawberry <i>runners</i>	<i>d</i>	11
Chervil	<i>d</i>	6-8	Orach	<i>d</i>	7-13	Swedes	<i>d</i>	10-14
Chicory	<i>d</i>	8	Spring Onions	<i>d</i>	6-10	Turnip	<i>d</i>	6-9
Chinese Cabbage	<i>ds</i>	8-10	Parsley	<i>ds</i>	9-19			
Cress	<i>d</i>	2-3	Parsnip	<i>d</i>	17-20			

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