

January Vegetable and Herb Gardening Calendar for Arid Climate Australia

It's January, and we find ourselves right in the middle of the summer season. It's in this month and the next that we experience the hottest daytime and night temperatures of the year.

With the weather so hot and dry at this time, and with hot winds blowing, it's important to keep up with the watering, especially for plants in containers.

The warmth brings insects, so keep a lookout for any diseases or pests in the garden.

Cover fruit trees with bird-netting to protect the fruit, and support or prop up branches heavily laden with fruit if they look too heavy.

Not forgetting the vegetables, it's now time to harvest early potatoes, garlic, shallots and globe artichokes.

Sow some winter brassicas such as broccoli, brussels sprouts, cauliflower and swedes at this month, so they can be harvested in the winter season.

To ensure that indeterminate (tall growing/staking variety) tomatoes ripen their fruit this late in the season, pinch out the growing tips to stop further green growth and remove any side-shoots, so the plant's vigour is directed towards the fruit.

Things to Do This Month:

- Continue tying growing vines back to supports or wires.
- 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.
- Cut and dry herbs for winter use.
- Harvest seed from perennial plants.
- Last chance to sow vegetable seeds for harvesting in autumn.
- Keep an eye on water gardens and ponds, water levels can get low due to evaporation. Aquatic plants, including oxygenators, can become overgrown and require thinning at this time of year.



Vegetables and Herbs to Grow in January (Temperate Climate)

January Seeds to Sow and Seedlings to Plant (Temperate Climate Australia)	Sow/Plant	Harvest (weeks)
Amaranth	dst	7-8
Asparagus	plant crowns	2-3 years
Asparagus Pea	d	8-11
Basil	st	10-12
Beans (Climbing)	dt	9-11
Beans (Dwarf, Bush)	dst	7-10
Borage	dt	8-10
Brussels Sprouts	s	14-28
Burdock	d	17-18
Cabbage	s	8-15
Capsicum	st	10-12
Carrot	d	12-18
Chives	dst	7-11
Choko	plant shooting mature fruit	17
Cucumber	dst	8-10
Daikon	d	8-10
Eggplant	t	12-15
Marrow	dt	12-17
NZ Spinach (Warrigal Greens)	s	8-10
Okra	t	11-14
Oregano	dst	6-8
Parsley	s	9-19
Pumpkin	dst	15-20
Radish	d	5-7
Rockmelon (Cantaloupe)	dt	10-16
Rosella	dst	21-25
Salsify	d	14-21
Shallots	d	12-15
Silverbeet (Swiss Chard)	dst	7-12
Squash	dst	7-8
Sunflower	dst	10-11
Sweet Corn	dst	11-14
Tomato	dst	8-17
Watermelon	dst	9-14
Zucchini (Courgette, Marrow)	dst	6-9



Key:

d = sow seeds directly into ground

s = sow seeds into seed tray

ds = sow seeds directly into ground or seed tray

t = transplant seedlings (small plants) into larger pots or plant into ground

* = frost tender

** = sow after frost



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