

Deep Green Permaculture

Vegetable & Herb Gardening Calendar

July – Cool & Alpine Climate, Australia



It's the month of July and 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.

During this month, temperatures will hit their lowest for the year. Brief spells of strong, cold winds may be experienced, becoming stronger in the afternoon. Frosts also become more frequent during this month. There may be light snow in some areas and there's snow on the Great Dividing Range.

Hobart will experience around half a month of rain, and Canberra has its frostiest and foggiest month of the year.

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

Method Key:

| | | | |
|----|---|----|--|
| d | sow seeds directly into ground | t | transplant seedlings into larger pots or plant into ground |
| s | sow seeds into seed tray | * | frost tender |
| ds | sow seeds directly into ground or seed tray | ** | sow after frost |

| What To Plant | Method | Harvest (weeks) |
|--------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Broad Beans | dst | 12-22 |
| Garlic | plant cloves | 17-25 |
| Peas | s | 9-11 |
| Silverbeet (Swiss Chard) | s | 7-12 |
| Snow Peas | s | 12-14 |
| Spinach | dst | 5-11 |

To help improve these garden calendars, feedback and additional information from readers is greatly appreciated! Australia's climate varies considerably, and local knowledge of when particular things need to be done in the garden are most helpful to others living in that area, so please feel free to share.

Things To Do This Month

- » Plant deciduous trees, shrubs, vines and cane fruits. Wait until spring to plant 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 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 also rose pruning time in July!)
- » 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 when flower colour shows. It is too late to spray once flowering occurs.
- » If you use horticultural glue bands on tree trunks, to prevent winter insects crawling up the trees 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 or early spring, when 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 $\frac{2}{3}$ are below the soil, and press the soil down around them. Cuttings will root and be ready to plant next autumn.