

Deep Green Permaculture

Vegetable & Herb Gardening Calendar

July – Subtropical 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 in Sydney and Brisbane, but with clear, sunny weather. Brisbane averages up to a week of rainy weather this month, with a bit more in Sydney. Frosts also become more frequent during this month.

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)
Angelica	s	18 months
Beetroot	dst	7-10
Cabbage	s	8-15
Cape Gooseberry	s	14-16
Carrot	d	12-18
Chinese Cabbage	s	8-10
Chives	dst	7-11
Coriander (Cilantro)	s	4-6
Dill	s	8-12
Endive	t	10-11
Fennel (Bronze)	s	14-15
Globe Artichokes	s	42-57

continued

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.
- » 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.
- » Continue planting strawberry runners and shallot bulbs.

What To Plant	Method	Harvest (weeks)
Kale	t	7-9
Kohlrabi	dt	7-10
Lettuce	dst	8-12
Mint	s	8-12
Mustard Greens	dst	5-8
Parsnip	d	17-20
Peas	dt	9-11
Potato		15-20
Pumpkin	s	15-20
Radish	d	5-7
Rocket	d	3-5
Shallots	d	12-15
Silverbeet (Swiss Chard)	st	7-12
Snow Peas	dt	12-14
Spinach	dt	5-11
Spring Onions (Bunching Onions)	d	6-10
Strawberry (seed)	s	12 months
Strawberry (plants)	t	11
Sunflower	s	10-11
Sweet Corn	s	11-14
Thyme	s	42-52
Watermelon	s	9-14

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.

