

Deep Green Permaculture

Vegetable & Herb Gardening Calendar

June – Subtropical Climate, Australia



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

The winds ease off this month, Brisbane weather is fine and mild, with frosts in some areas. It's a wetter month in Sydney with a bit less than 12 days of rain.

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

Harsh cold winds can dry 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, when frost is anticipated, cover vulnerable plants overnight with hessian, shadecloth, plastic sheet, cardboard, straw or newspaper – make sure that the cover is not airtight, and air can still circulate.

Things To Do This Month

- » Plant deciduous trees, shrubs, vines, cane fruits and roses. Wait until spring to plant 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 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.
- » 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 are 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.

Method 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 into larger pots or plant into ground
- * frost tender
- ** sow after frost

What To Plant	Method	Harvest (weeks)
Beetroot	dst	7-10
Broad Beans	dt	12-22
Cabbage	st	8-15
Carrot	d	12-18
Cauliflower	t	15-22
Celeriac	t	14-28
Celery	t	17-18
Chicory	t	16-24
Chives	dst	7-11
Collard Greens	t	8-11
Endive	dst	10-11
Garlic	plant cloves	17-25
Kale	t	7-9
Kohlrabi	dst	7-10
Lettuce	dst	8-12
Mizuna	t	5-7
Mustard Greens	dst	5-8
Onion	s	25-34
Pak Choy	t	6-11
Parsley	t	9-19
Parsnip	d	17-20
Peas	dst	9-11
Potato		15-20
Radish	d	5-7
Rocket	d	3-5
Shallots	d	12-15
Silverbeet (Swiss Chard)	st	7-12
Snow Peas	dst	12-14
Spinach	dst	5-11
Strawberry (seed)	s	12 months
Strawberry (plants)	t	11