

Deep Green Permaculture

Vegetable & Herb Gardening Calendar

August – Tropical Climate, Australia

It's August, the weather is dry and sunny in Darwin, but the end of winter draws near. Days begin to grow noticeably longer and the change of season isn't too far away.

This month is the time to sow the first summer vegetable seeds.

Towards the end of August, feed fruit trees with organic fertiliser, manure and compost by digging these into the soil when preparing new garden beds. The soil organisms will begin breaking down the organic plant food to slowly release nutrients into the soil after a week or two, ready for the beginning of new spring growth in September. If fruit trees need a feed of potash (potassium), late August is also the time to do that too.



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

Things To Do This Month

- » Continue planting deciduous trees, shrubs, vines and cane fruits (and roses!). Wait until spring to plant citrus.
- » Continue pruning deciduous shrubs (and roses too if you didn't prune them in July).
- » Prune dead seed-heads, stems and branches on herbaceous perennial plants.
- » 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).
- » Apply organic fertiliser to fruit trees, so that the slowly-released nutrients will become available when the new growth commences in spring.
- » Feed pot-grown shrubs and plants and refresh their potting mix by scraping off the top 2.5cm and replace it with fresh potting mix which has been mixed with slow-release fertiliser. Top dressing with compost is also beneficial.

What To Plant	Method	Harvest (weeks)
Amaranth	dt	7-8
Basil	st	10-12
Beans (Climbing)	t	9-11
Beans (Dwarf, Bush)	t	7-10
Borage	dt	8-10
Cabbage	t	8-15
Cape Gooseberry	dt	14-16
Chinese Cabbage	t	8-10
Collard Greens	t	8-11
Coriander (Cilantro)	t	4-6
Cowpeas (Black Eye Peas)	d	11-14
Cucumber	dt	8-10
Ginger	plant root	25
Kohlrabi	t	7-10
Marrow	t	12-17
Mustard Greens	dst	5-8
Okra	dst	11-14
Oregano	t	6-8
Pak Choy	t	6-11
Spring Onions (Bunching Onions)	dt	6-10
Squash	t	7-8
Sunflower	dt	10-11
Sweet Corn	dst	11-14
Sweet Potato (Kumara)	plant crowns	15-17
Taro (Cocoyam)	plant tubers	28
Thyme	t	42-52
Yam/Oka	plant tubers	15-20
Zucchini (Courgette, Marrow)	dt	6-9

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.