

July Vegetable and Herb Gardening Calendar for Temperate 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 Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth, and rain will fall for half the month. Brief spells of strong cold winds may be experienced, becoming stronger in the afternoon, particularly in Melbourne. 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!

Things to Do This Month:

- Plant deciduous trees, shrubs, vines and cane fruits. Wait till 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 the 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, where 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 2/3 is 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.



Vegetables and Herbs to Grow in July (Temperate Climate)

July Seeds to Sow and Seedlings to Plant (Temperate Climate Australia)	Sow/Plant	Harvest (weeks)
Beetroot	s	7-10
Broad Beans	dst	12-22
Fennel (Florence)	s	14-20
Kohlrabi	s	7-10
Leeks	s	15-18
Lettuce	dst	8-12
Onion	dst	25-34
Parsley	dst	9-19
Peas	dst	9-11
Potato		15-20
Radish	d	5-7
Silverbeet (Swiss Chard)	s	7-12
Snow Peas	dst	12-14
Spinach	dst	5-11
Spring Onions (Bunching Onions)	st	6-10
Squash	s	7-8
Strawberry (seed)	s	12 months
Strawberry (plants)	t	11

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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