

Things to do in September

You could be picking

- You should have lifted Garlic, onions and shallots and dried in sun before storing.
- Keep picking tomatoes, French beans, and courgettes, cucumbers, lettuce, spinach, rocket, Calabrese and globe artichokes. Best to pick twice a week to keep up production. Continue to pull carrots, beetroot, spring onions, fennel and radish.
- Sweet corn started to ripen in August. This year muntjac did not get it but the mice did!
- Autumn raspberries, blackberries are well underway and late strawberries still around. Pick sweet peas and other flowers to keep flowering.
- Lift main crop potatoes when tops die down. Dig on a sunny day and allow to dry as they store better.
- Check grapes for ripeness. If you leave them too late wasps will get them but leave as long as possible to increase sugar content. Juice and freeze as grape juice if you cannot bear the drama of wine making.
- Harvest apples and pears. Store in cool place.

You could still be clearing

- Keep compost heap going with a mixture of material, wet and dry and toss in some grass cuttings to keep it hot. DO NOT COMPOST PERENNIAL WEED ROOTS
- Cut back strawberries that have finished fruiting and pot up runners for new stock.
- Cut hard new shoots on dwarf fruit trees back to 2cms. Leave soft shoots till later. Thin out heavy crops of apples, pears and plums for better crop later.
- Prune and burn any areas with canker
- Cut out fruited blackberries once picked.
- Try to cover any soil not in use to avoid annual weeds developing.
- HOE ON DRY DAYS TO KEEP DOWN WEEDS
- Fleece is effective cover and gives some protection from bird/insects.
- Keep thistles and brambles cut down and they will eventually die. Do not let thistles seed or you will share them with everyone.
- Cut your headland and keep the blackberries down as much as possible

You could still be sowing and planting

- Sow oriental greens, calabrese, chervil, coriander, leaf beet, parsley, radish, rocket, winter lettuce, spring cabbage, endive, and beetroot.
- Plant out earlier sowings of spring cabbage, kale and oriental greens.
- Buy winter varieties of broad beans to sow in late Oct
- Get ready to Plant Garlic and autumn onion sets in October
- Sow hardy annuals for next year in flowering position and cover.

Other Jobs

- Keep cutting grass, brambles, thistles and any nettle regularly to keep in check and stop seeding. If you want to reclaim a grassy area cut weekly. Add to compost bin (not nettle roots)
- Fit guttering to your shed to feed a water butt
- Try to keep paths around you down by cutting.
- Stake all top heavy brassicas like Brussels sprouts and Kale
- Grow some Russian comfrey (Bocking 14) for FREE high performance feed