

Things to do in July

You could be picking

- Runner beans, French beans, Early Potatoes, lettuce, globe artichokes, beetroot, broad beans, sugar peas, courgettes, spinach, spring onions and radish.
- Pull garlic and shallots if lower leaves are turning yellow. Leave if still growing and pull later to dry off in sunny spot .
- Harvest blackcurrants, strawberries, summer raspberries and gooseberries.

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
- 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 any thistles and brambles cut down and they will eventually die. Do not let weeds seed or you will share them with everyone.
- Stop pulling rhubarb to build up for next year.

You could be sowing and planting

- Plant out sprouting broccoli, calabrese, winter cauliflowers, leeks and kale. Try some oriental greens.
- Sow –lettuce, beetroot, radish, spinach, spring onion, cabbages, endive, lettuce, carrots,(Cover to keep off carrot fly) and Florence fennel.
- Thin crops sown in June. Nip out tips of broad beans to deter blackfly.
- Sow herbs like chives, coriander, and parsley. If you can sow small amounts and re-sow when germinated you will keep a steady supply. Do same with lettuce
- In a cold frame/greenhouse/or under fleece sow Brussels sprouts, Calabrese, summer cauliflowers, kale. French beans, runner beans and sweet corn can be sown to come through after last frosts.
- Plant out celery, cucumber, basil, melons, courgettes, marrows, squash and sweet corn
- Continue to sow hardy annuals like cornflower, nigella, Californian poppy, poached egg plant, sweet peas - all easy to grow and seed and bird friendly. Liked by hoverflies which eat aphids

Other Jobs

- Cut 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/thistle roots)
- Fit guttering to your shed to feed a water butt
- Try to keep paths around you down by cutting .
- Grow some Russian comfrey (Bocking 14) for FREE high performance feed

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