

August – Gardening Calendar for Temperate Australia

<http://deepgreenpermaculture.com/>

It's August, the weather is still cold and windy, but the end of winter is draws near, the days begin to grow noticeably longer and the change of season is not too far away.

This month is the last chance to complete the pruning of deciduous trees and shrubs, and for planting raspberries and brambleberries (such as blackberries and their hybrids).

It's now time to sow the first summer vegetable seeds. Where there's a danger of frost, sow seeds in trays and place them in a protected area such as a veranda, greenhouse, or indoors near a sunny window.

Towards the end of August, feed fruit trees with organic fertiliser, manure and compost. Also dig these into the soil when preparing new garden beds. The soil life will begin working on the organic plant food and will begin to slowly release its 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, late autumn is also the time to do that too.

Things to Do This Month:

- Continue planting deciduous trees, shrubs, vines and cane fruits (and roses!). Wait till spring for planting citrus.
- Continue pruning deciduous fruit trees (*not apricots, best to prune these in late autumn*).
- 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 and early spring, where 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.
- 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 colour shows. It is too late to spray once flowering occurs.
- 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.

Vegetables and Herbs to Sow:

Sow in August		Harvest (weeks)	Sow in August		Harvest (weeks)
Asparagus*	d	2-3 years	Parsnip	d	17-20
Beetroot	ds	7-10	Peas	d	9-11
Cabbage	ds	8-15	Potato	d	15-20
Cape Gooseberry	ds	14-16	Radish	d	5-7
Capsicum	s	10-12	Rocket	d	21-35 days
Chilli	s	9-11	Shallot <i>bulbs</i>	d	12-15
Eggplant	s	12-15	Snow Peas	d	12-14
Globe Artichokes	s	42-57	Spring Onions	d	8-12
Kohlrabi	d	7-10	Strawberries (seed)	s	12 months
Leeks	ds	15-18	Sunflower	ds	10-11
Lettuce	ds	8-12	Thyme	s	42-52
Mint	s	8-12	Tomato*	ds	8-17
Mustard greens	d	5-8	Watermelon*	ds	9-14
Onion	ds	25-34			

Key: d = sow directly into ground, s = sow in seed tray, ds = sow directly into ground or seed tray *= frost tender **= sow after frost

September – Gardening Calendar for Temperate Australia

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It's September, the beginning of spring, the time of new life and renewal! The weather is starting to warm up, but there are still cold days, rainy weather and winds to contend with.

Early spring is the best time to mulch garden beds, as the soil is still moist and is slowly warming up.

This month is the last chance to plant bare rooted deciduous trees and shrubs, as they need time to establish before the summer heat arrives. Container grown ones with well developed roots can be planted right through spring.

Things to Do This Month:

- Plant evergreen shrubs and trees (this includes citrus trees).
- Relocate evergreen shrubs - they can now regrow their roots during the mild weather.
- Last chance to plant bare-root deciduous trees, shrubs and vines (otherwise wait till autumn).
- Feed all fruit trees if you didn't do so last month.
- Clean up old growth in perennial herbaceous plants to make room for new growth.
- Propagate plants by taking cuttings or layering (both ground layering and air layering).
- Divide perennials, such as chives.
- Tie canes of brambleberries to wires before the vigorous growth commences in early spring.
- Plant passionfruit.
- For seedlings raised indoors in August, harden off by slowly increasing sun and exposure to outside temperatures for 7 to 10 days before planting out.
- In ponds, begin feeding fish small amounts of food often, so food is not left over to pollute water.

Vegetables and Herbs to Sow:

Sow in September		Harvest (weeks)	Sow in September		Harvest (weeks)
Amaranth**	ds	7-8	Lettuce	ds	8-12
Asparagus	d	2-3 years	Luffa	s	11-12
Asparagus Pea	d	8-11	Marrow*	d	12-17
Basil	s	10-12	Mint	s	8-12
Beetroot	ds	7-10	Mustard greens	d	5-8
Broccoli	ds	10-16	NZ Spinach	s	8-10
Burdock	d	17-18	Oregano	s	6-8
Cabbage	ds	8-15	Parsley	ds	9-19
Cape Gooseberry	ds	14-16	Parsnip	d	17-20
Capsicum	s	10-12	Peas	d	9-11
Carrot	d	12-18	Potato	d	15-20
Celeriac	s	14-28	Pumpkin*	ds	15-20
Celery	s	17-18	Radish	d	5-7
Chicory	d	16-24	Rhubarb	d	12 months
Chilli	s	9-11	Rocket	d	21-35 days
Chives	ds	7-11	Rockmelon*	ds	10-16
Climbing beans**	d	9-11	Sage	d	18 months
Coriander	d	30-45	Salsify	d	14-21
Corn Salad	d	5-8	Shallots	d	12-15
Cucumber	d	8-10	Silverbeet	ds	7-12
Daikon	d	8-10	Snow Peas	d	12-14
Dill	d	8-12	Spring onions	d	8-12
Dwarf beans**	d	7-10	Squash*	d	7-8
Eggplant	s	12-15	Sunflower	ds	10-11

Endive	ds	10-11	Sweet corn**	ds	11-14
Fennel	d	14-15	Tomatillo	s	10-14
Globe Artichokes	s	42-57	Tomato	ds	8-17
Horseradish	d	16-24	Turnip	d	6-9
Jerusalem Artichokes	d	15-20	Winter Savory	s	6-10
Kohlrabi	d	7-10	Zucchini*	ds	6-9
Leeks	ds	15-18			

Key: d = sow directly into ground, s = sow in seed tray, ds = sow directly into ground or seed tray * = frost tender ** = sow after frost