

What To Plant And Do In the Food Garden In JUNE

By John Ditchburn (Ditchy), The Backyard Food Gardener www.urbanfoodgarden.org

WHAT TO PLANT IN JUNE (Coastal mild & warm inland) *		
FROM SEED	FROM SEEDLING	IN SEEDLING BOXES #
ASPARAGUS - CROWNS BROAD BEANS GARLIC - BULBS ^E PEA - BUSH PEA - CLIMBING SPRING ONION	CABBAGE LETTUCE & (LETTUCE) PAK CHOI ¹ & (PAK CHOI¹) SPRING ONION	<u>CABBAGE</u> ONION & (ONION) <u>PAK CHOI</u> SPRING ONION & <u>SPRING ONION</u>
<p>* Key vegetables only, not all vegetables that can be planted at this time are listed. # Sow in seedling boxes for planting out in four to six weeks time. 1 Best sown in single cell seedling trays as these seedlings don't like their roots being disturbed when transplanted. X Prone to cabbage butterfly damage when grown this time of year. (Parenthesis) Grow in greenhouse or temporary polytunnel. <u>DOUBLE UNDERLINED</u> Grow in glass/plastic covered seedling box. <u>RED DOUBLE UNDERLINED</u> Grow in artificially heated seedling hot box. E or L Only Early or Late in the month.</p>		

WHAT TO DO IN THE VEGGIE PATCH

- Harvest Brussels sprouts from the bottom up, breaking off the lower leaves as you pick the sprouts.

- Harvest cabbages, cauliflowers and broccoli heads.

After the main broccoli head has been picked begin harvesting the side shoots.

- Finish planting garlic and plant potato onions.
- Scuff hoe beds with vegetables growing in them.
- Prepare the asparagus bed for spring.

To do this cut the asparagus stems off at ground level after they have turned yellow (this can be done with sequiturs or a brushcutter) and weed the bed. Spread a liberal amount of animal manure and blood and bone over the top then cover with a thick layer of mulch.

- Turn and heavily mulch vegetable beds that are to be fallowed over winter.

An alternative is to plant them with a winter manure crop.

- Do and inventory of your seed packets. Throw out seeds that are past their use by date and make a list of seeds that need to be restocked.

Most seed companies bring out their new season's seed catalogues in June so it's a good time to peruse them. When buying seeds a good habit to get into is to order those seeds that you know do well in your garden plus two or three experimental varieties.



An easy way to cut asparagus stalks is to use a brushcutter.

Don't buy more seeds than you can use in the next year or two!

The use by date on a packet of seeds does not mean that all the seeds will be infertile but seed fertility generally drops off dramatically after the use by date has been passed. If you want to use seeds after their use by date has passed then sow them more thickly than recommend to compensate for the lower fertility rate. An alternative to throwing out seeds that have past their

WHAT TO DO IN THE GREENHOUSE

use by date is to sow them as a green manure crop.

- Continue to stagger plant lettuce and Pak Choi seedlings and sow rocket seeds. Peas can also be planted if you have the space.

- If you haven't already done so sow onions in Styrofoam seedling boxes for planting out in August.
- Prune fruit trees after leaf fall.

WHAT TO DO IN THE GARDEN

Apple and pear trees should be pruned reasonably heavily but plums, sweet cherries and apricots require only light pruning to maintain good fruit production. Peach and nectarine should be regularly pruned to encourage new growth as they bear their fruit on last season's growth. When pruning cut out inward growing limbs to encourage airflow and to allow sunlight to reach the centre of the tree.

- Old fruit trees can be brought back into productive use by heavily cutting back a third of the tree for the next three years.

Pruning a third of the tree at a time reduces the stress on the tree that is caused by heavy pruning.

- Cut away all dead branches and damaged bark regardless of the type of fruit tree.
- Clear away any old windfall fruit from under fruit trees.
- Plant bare rooted fruit trees.

A standard method of planting bare rooted fruit trees is:-

1. Prune the tree to its desired shape (central leader, vase shape etc..)
2. Place the tree in a bucket of water so that the roots of the tree are fully submerged.
3. Dig a hole to the depth of the root structure (around 30 to 40 cm) and twice the width (around 60 to 80cm).
4. Loosen the base and sides of the hole with a fork.
5. Fill the hole with water and let it soak away.
6. Place the tree in the hole and backfill it, keeping the base of the tree a few centimetres above the level of the ground.
7. Thoroughly water the base of the tree to make sure there are no air pockets around the roots.
8. Firmly Stake and tie the tree.
9. Place sand around the base of the tree (to reduce the risk of collar rot) then mulch around the tree to the edge of the sand. Bare soil can be used in lieu of sand.

Make sure you label and/or record what type of tree you have planted, this is especially important if you are planting a number of varieties of the same tree. When the first shoots begin to show in the spring apply a weak liquid fertiliser to encourage growth, as the tree gets bigger in mid to late spring spread manure around the base. Make sure the tree gets a regular watering in summer as its root system will take a few months to become fully established. If the tree is to be espaliered make sure the espalier frame is in place prior to the spring growth so you can train the tree's new shoots as soon as they emerge.

- Strawberry runners can be planted in well drained ridges, though make sure they are certified or have come from strawberry plants that have fruited well last season. Replace strawberry plants that are more than three years old.

- If you have large deciduous trees then rake up the leaves and put them in the compost or use them as mulch.

- June is a good time to do maintenance on your garden tools.

Sharpen knives and secateurs with a sharpening stone and oil wooden handles. Lanolin oil is ideal as it is very penetrating. Oil moving metal parts with WD-40 or a similar light lubricant.



Felco grinding stone for sharpening knives and secateurs, Lanotec lanolin oil for oiling wooden handles and WD-40 for lubricating moving metal parts.