

What To Plant And Do In the Food Garden In AUGUST

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

WHAT TO PLANT IN AUGUST (Ballarat & district) *

FROM SEED	FROM SEEDLING	IN SEEDLING BOXES #
ASPARAGUS - CROWN BROAD BEANS PEA & (PEA ^{TC}) (ROCKET) & ROCKET	(LETTUCE) & LETTUCE ONION (PAK CHOI ¹) SPRING ONION	<u>LEEK</u> <u>LETTUCE</u> & <u>LETTUCE</u> <u>SPRING ONION</u> <u>PAK CHOI¹</u> & <u>PAK CHOI¹</u> <u>SILVERBEET</u> & <u>SILVERBEET</u> <u>TOMATOES</u>

* 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. DOUBLE UNDERLINED Grow in glass/plastic covered seedling box. RED DOUBLE UNDERLINED Grow in artificially heated seedling hot box. E or L Only Early or Late in the month.

WHAT TO DO IN THE VEGGIE PATCH

- Prepare vegetable beds for spring plantings by turning them over and applying manure and/or blood and bone.

The exception being beds that will be sown with carrots or onions, these bed should only get a small amount of blood and bone or no fertiliser at all.

- If any of your vegetable beds have mulch on them than either rake aside the mulch or dig it into the soil before planting.

This is because mulch makes a good insulation and keeps the soil cooler than bare soil. Late winter and early spring plantings will do better if planted into bare soil.

- Begin planting new season's vegetables as per planting guides but also according to the temperature of the soil.

Soil temperature is critical to seed germination so only plant seeds when their soil temperature requirements match the average temperature of the soil.

- Plan out what vegetables you are going to plant this season and where you are going to plant them.

This is done to ensure that you don't run out of space for late season plantings.

VEGETABLE PLANTING SOIL TEMPERATURE GUIDE

COOL SOIL (10+ Deg. C)	Cabbage *	Cucumber
Broad beans	Carrot	Pumpkin
Broccoli *	Cauliflower *	Sunflower
Brussels Sprouts *	Lettuce	Tomato *
Kale *	Mizuna	Zucchini
Leek	Parsnip	VERY WARM SOIL (15+ Deg. C)
Onion	Rocket	Basil *
Pak Choi	Silverbeet	Capsicum *
Pea	Tatsoi	Chillies *
Turnip	WARM SOIL (15 + Deg. C)	Eggplant *
MILD SOIL (12 + Deg. C)	Beans	Rockmelon
Beetroot	Corn	Watermelon
* Best planted as seedlings		

- Harvest broccoli, cabbages and cauliflowers as they mature.

Pick the broccoli side shoots after the main head has been cut. These side shoots can be produce an even greater amount of broccoli than the main head.

- Harvest last season's root crops before they begin to go to seed in the warmer weather.

Though you can leave some to go to seed to provide seeds for sowing in the following year.

In order to free up space in your main vegetable beds root vegetables intended to be left to go to seed can be dug up and replanted in a nursery bed. These transplanted vegetables will grow on in their new location and produce a seed crop.



Beetroot that was transplanted from the main vegetable garden into a nursery bed. It will eventually go to seed and provide seeds for next season's beetroot sowings.

WHAT TO DO IN THE GREENHOUSE

- **Prepare the beds for planting your summer crop plantings in the spring.**

- **Continue to harvest winter crops.**

Ideal winter greenhouse vegetables are lettuce, rocket, Pak choi, Mizuna, Tatsoi, peas and snow peas.

- **Prepare beds for summer crops after winter crops have been harvested.**

If you are using pots to grow vegetables in the greenhouse then empty and wash them then fill with fresh potting mix. While greenhouse vegetables can be grown in the ground the warm moist conditions that greenhouses provide increases the risk of fungal diseases. Growing vegetables in pots in the greenhouse reduces that risk.



LEFT: Capsicum and lettuce seedlings in a heated propagation box made using an aquarium heater.



RIGHT: Empty box on the right with lid in place.

WHAT TO DO IN THE GARDEN

- **Set up a heated propagation box and plant tomato seeds for planting as seedlings in the greenhouse from mid-September.**

If your climate is relatively mild then you can use non-heated seedling propagation boxes to grow your early tomato seedlings.

Tomato seedlings grown in seedling boxes in August can be planted directly in the greenhouse from mid-September or potted up into larger pots for planting outside when the weather is warm enough and the risk of frost has passed.

- **Spray peach and nectarine trees to control curly leaf.**

Spray with lime sulphur or Bordeaux mix (copper sulphate solution). It is important that this be done before leaf buds begin to form. Do not apply just before rain as lime sulphur and Bordeaux mix are easily washed off.



Spraying a peach tree to control curly leaf. This should be done before leaf bud and when the weather is dry.

- **Spray grapevines with lime sulphur to control powdery mildew.**

This should be sprayed before the buds begin to shoot.

- **Apply winter oil to any deciduous fruit trees before leaf bud to kill overwintering pests under the bark.**

- **Start grafting apples and pears as soon as the sap begins to rise.**

Ideally the scions (branch cuttings) you intend to graft onto the trees should have been cut earlier and kept in the fridge wrapped in wet newspaper. Stone fruits such as peaches and apricots are usually bud-grafted during late summer.