

Things to do in August

You could be picking

- Check and lift garlic, onions and shallots and dry in sun before storing.
- Keep picking cucumbers, tomatoes, French beans, 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 late July this year and so far muntjac has not had it.
- Autumn raspberries, blackberries are **underway** and some 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.

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
- Environmesh 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 do not allow it to get onto path.

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.

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