



What To Plant And Do In the Food Garden In August

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WHAT TO PLANT IN THE VEGGIE PATCH

| WHAT TO PLANT IN AUGUST (Ballarat & District) * | | |
|---|-----------------------|---|
| FROM SEED | FROM SEEDLING | IN SEEDLING BOXES # |
| Asparagus - crowns | Broccoli ^x | <u>Broccoli</u> |
| Broad beans | Cabbage ^x | <u>Cabbage</u> |
| Pea & (pea) | kale ^x | <u>kale</u> |
| Spring onion | (Lettuce) & lettuce | <u>Leek</u> |
| (Rocket) & rocket | Onion | <u>Lettuce & Lettuce</u> |
| | (Pak Choi 1) | <u>Pak choi¹ & Pak Choi¹</u> |
| | Spring onion | <u>Silverbeet</u> |
| | | <u>Spring onion</u> |
| | | <u>Tomato</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 planted this time of year. (Parenthesis) Grow in greenhouse or polytunnel. DOUBLE UNDERLINE Grow in seedling hot box. RED DOUBLE UNDERLINE - Grow in artificially heated seedling hot box.

WHAT TO DO IN THE VEGGIE PATCH

- Begin to apply manure and blood and bone to vegetable beds with the exception of beds that will be sown with carrots or onions.
- 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.
- Plant new season's vegetables as per the planting guide but also according to soil temperature.

Soil temperature is critical to seed germination so only plant seeds when the soil temperature matches the soil temperature requirements of the seeds you are planting.

| 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 | | |

- 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.
- Harvest broccoli, cabbages and cauliflowers as they mature. Harvest broccoli side shoots after the main head has been cut.

WHAT TO DO IN THE GREENHOUSE

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

- **Plant a crop of early lettuces.**

- **If you have a pond in your greenhouse then empty it and give it a good cleanout.** Having a pond in your greenhouse is a good idea. Water heats up and cools down more slowly than air, which means the pond will continue to give off heat after the sun goes down. This keeps the temperature in the greenhouse at a more stable level and reduces the risk of frost in the dead of winter. An alternative to a pond is drums filled with water.

- **Set up a heated propagation box and plant tomato seeds for planting out as seedlings in the greenhouse or poly tunnel in mid-September.** If you haven't got a heated propagation box then use seedling punnets placed on a north facing windowsill. If you live in an area that has mild winters then try growing your tomato seedlings in an unheated propagation box.

WHAT TO DO IN THE GARDEN



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. Aquarium heater heated propagation boxes are easy and cheap to make, for instructions on how to make one follow this link: [How To Make An Aquarium Heater Propagation Box](#)

- **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 leaves begin to form. Do not apply before rain as lime sulphur and Bordeaux mix are easily washed off.

- **Spray grapevines with lime sulphur to control powdery mildew.** This should be sprayed before the buds begin to shoot.



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

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

- **Begin 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.