

What To Plant And Do In the Food Garden In September

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

WHAT TO PLANT IN OCTOBER (Mild coastal & warm inland) *		
FROM SEED	FROM SEEDLING	IN SEEDLING BOXES #
BEANS - BUSH	BASIL	<u>BASIL</u> & BASIL
BEANS - CLIMBING	BROCCOLI ^x	BROCCOLI ^x
BEETROOT	CAPSICUM & (CAPSICUM)	CABBAGE ^x
CARROT	CHILLI & (CHILLI)	CAPSICUM
CORN	CELERY	CELERY
CUCUMBER	CABBAGE ^x	<u>CHILLI</u> & CHILLI
LETTUCE	CORN ¹	CORN ¹
PAK CHOI	EGGPLANT & (EGGPLANT)	<u>EGGPLANT</u> & EGGPLANT
PARSNIP	LEEK	LEEK
POTATOES	LETTUCE	LETTUCE
PUMPKIN	ONION	PAK CHOI
ROCKET	PAK CHOI	SILVERBEET
SILVERBEET	SILVERBEET	TOMATO
SPRING ONION	SPRING ONION	SPRING ONION
SUNFLOWER	TOMATO	TOMATO
TURNIP		
ZUCCHINI		

* 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 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

- All warm season vegetables can now be planted. The key ones being tomato, eggplant, capsicum, corn, beans, pumpkin, zucchini & basil.

- Regularly hoe rows to suppress weeds.

- Towards the end of November begin applying mulch around established vegetables in order to suppress weeds and conserve water.

Though still do not mulch around tomatoes, capsicum and eggplant as bare soil will be warmer than mulched soil and these plants need the soil to be very warm in order to promote vigorous growth.

- Plant lettuces in semi shaded areas or cover them with 50% shade cloth.

Lettuces do poorly in hot conditions, if you keep them semi shaded they will take longer to bolt and won't be as bitter.



Lettuce plants covered with 50% shade cloth. In the warmer weather lettuces are less likely to bolt and less bitter if they are shaded from direct sunlight.

- Monitor for aphid infestations and spray with pyrethrum if they get out of hand.

- Begin hand watering your vegetables as required.

This will vary depending on the type of vegetables being grown and what level of maturity they have reached.

WATER REQUIREMENTS IN WARM DRY WEATHER *	
Any newly planted seedlings plus carrot, beetroot and lettuce seeds.	LIGHT WATERING DAILY
Cucumbers, capsicum, and pak choi.	HEAVY WATERING EVERY SECOND DAY
Lettuces, eggplant, Carrot, beetroot, chilli, broad beans, beans and zucchini.	MODERATE WATERING EVERY SECOND DAY
Pumpkin and tomatoes.	HEAVY WATERING TWICE A WEEK
Onion and garlic.	WATER ONLY IF CONDITIONS ARE VERY DRY
Immediately water any vegetables that show signs of water stress, e.g. drooping leaves. Note that you can over water vegetables, wet moist soil can promote a range of bacterial diseases such as fusarium wilt. * Only key vegetables show.	

- **Build frames for your tomato plants and climbing beans.**



Tomatoes staked up on an A frame trellis. Frames such as this can support more laterals than tomatoes supported with only a single stake.

- **Begin removing unwanted and tying up wanted laterals on your tomato plants.**
- **Harvest peas, broad beans and lettuces as they mature.**
- **Finish harvesting your asparagus.**

This usually occurs around the second week of November.

WHAT TO DO IN THE GREENHOUSE

- **Plant capsicum, chilli and eggplant seedlings.**
- **Plant cucumber, watermelon, okra and rockmelon seeds.**
- **Monitor for white flies and spray if detected.** Whiteflies can be a major problem in a greenhouse as their numbers can rapidly build up in the ideal conditions greenhouses offer. Repeatedly spray with pyrethrum every three or four days until the whiteflies are all dead, this usually takes four or five goes.
- **Monitor for aphid infestations and spray with pyrethrum as required.**

WHAT TO DO IN THE GARDEN

- **Prune over vigorous fruit trees, especially inward growing and overlapping shoots.**
- **Flush irrigation polypipe and check that micro spray and dripper heads are not blocked.** If you have an automatic watering system timer then set it to come on in accordance with the watering demands of your garden.
- **Regularly water berry plants.** Berry plants will need plenty of water if they are to produce good fruit so make sure you keep the water up to them.
- **Tie up young raspberry, blackberry and loganberry canes as they shoot.**
- **Place nets over berry bushes when the fruit is approaching maturity.**



Grubbing out raspberry suckers with a Ho-mi. Raspberry suckers can be easily potted up for planting next season or planted directly into a new bed.