

JOBS FOR JUNE IN THE VEG GARDEN



1. Gooseberries and elderflowers appear at a similar time towards the end of the month and make a delicious combination in jam – the natural pectin in the flowers helps the jam to set. Elderflowers can be picked and frozen too if you don't have time to use them whilst they're flowering.
2. Hate to say it yet again..... But keep weeding. It's much easier to pick small weed seedlings out than big roots once they've established.
3. Keep checking your plants and be on the lookout for pests and diseases. Remember to look on the undersides of leaves too. Start netting brassica crops.
4. Consider mulching plants once they're beyond the seedling stage. Not only will weeds be kept at bay but also it will help to insulate the soil – keeping it cooler and damper in the summer. Organic mulches include garden compost, straw, wilted comfrey and dry grass clippings.
5. Keep thinning vegetables as they grow.
6. If you're lucky enough to have a greenhouse or polytunnel make sure it's adequately ventilated. Fungal diseases can build up quickly. Damp down the floors, borders or staging two or three times a day if possible until late afternoon, but no later to give it time to dry off before nightfall. (This will also help to keep red spider mite at bay as they thrive in dry conditions).



7. Earth up Maincrop and second early potatoes once or twice more. Stop when the tops have grown large enough to touch those in the rows either side.

8. Keep building your compost heap, building it up in thin layers as you go along. Consider turning it if you're able to re-activate it.

9. If you like to feed your plants, you can begin now.

Globe artichokes, peppers, aubergines, chillies, peas and tomatoes can be given a high potash organic liquid feed (comfrey leaves are perfect for this, but if you don't have access, look out for organic tomato or seaweed feed).

10. Continue to look out for plants that may need training or tying in to poles. It's much easier to do it when the plants are small, rather than waiting until it collapses under the weight of a full crop.

What you can sow outside now...

Lots of veg can be planted directly outside into the soil from now on (check the [links](#) for suppliers of seeds) including:

French (kidney) beans, runner beans, beetroot, borage, carrots, chicory, dill, curled endive, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, parsley, pea, radish, swede and turnip. If you're planting for winter storage and you have a choice, sow beetroot, carrot and swede in positions that they won't be exposed to sun all day – they'll be less likely to bolt.

Transplant to final position when they have four or five leaves:

Sprouting & heading broccoli
Savoy cabbages
Brussels sprouts
Kale
Kohlrabi

Transplant leeks when they're about 15 – 20cm high (pencil thickness).

French (kidney) beans & Runner beans can be planted out now.

Continue to sow successionaly Beetroot, Carrots, Lettuce, Pea, Radish, Swede, and Turnip and summer spinach.

Tomatoes can be staked and planted out once the first flower trusses are showing preferably in a sheltered but sunny position.