

JOBS FOR JULY IN THE VEG GARDEN



The picture is of the pretty green manure *Phacelia tanacetifolia*. The bees adore the flowers so it makes a great companion plant and looks pretty in a jar on the kitchen table too! See Tips at the end for more information on using green manures.

1. Start preparing strawberry beds ready for planting out in late summer. They prefer a sunny position with a mildly acidic pH of 6.5 to neutral. Mix in lots of bulky organic matter when digging such as well-rotted garden compost or similar at about half a wheelbarrow full per square metre. Remove all weeds, particularly the pernicious ones, then level the soil out and rake.
2. Continue to give fruit and flowering plants a regular liquid feed.
3. If you're growing cucumbers, courgettes or squashes pinch out the ends of any sideshoots to divert the energy into fruit production.
4. Keep a check on tomato stakes, as the plants will be getting heavy. Towards the end of the month some people pinch out the growing point at the second leaf above the fourth flower truss as although new fruit may set, it won't have time to ripen.
5. Tie Brussels sprouts to strong stakes as they grow to prevent them blowing over in summer gales.
6. Remove all but the strongest couple of runners from strawberry plants as they will get tangled as they search out new soil. Plant the strong runners into pots of compost buried in the soil next to the parent plant. Once rooted they can be cut from the parent. (see www.greensidupveg.blogspot.com) for more information on Strawberries.
7. If you're growing cucumbers or peppers, (depending upon variety) remove the male flowers if they are flowering heavily. When vine flowers have set, remove all except about ten to twelve on each plant, evenly spaced. Their fruit can become bitter if they're left on.
8. Runner beans are a hungry, deep rooting plant. If you live in a drought-prone area ensure they are kept watered and consider mulching to retain moisture.
9. Continue to thin crops such as carrots, borage, swedes and turnips.
10. Check your compost heap and water if it's looking dry.

What you can sow outside now...

French beans (kidney beans)
Beetroot
Spring cabbage
Carrots
Kale
Lettuce
Radish
Summer spinach
Turnips



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