

June Seasonal Gardening Tips – Subtropical Queensland

June is one of the best months for sowing winter crops. We only have short winter (June/July) so make the most of this time by growing cool-season vegetables and herbs. Sow little and often (succession plant) for a continuous harvest of fresh ingredients. If your garden has more shade in winter with the shorter days, remember you can still plant a wide variety of [shade-tolerant edibles](#). Daylight hours are shorter in winter, so observe your sun/shade areas and give priority to plants that need full sun positions (6 hours of direct sunlight/day). Move containers around on portable trolleys or castors to catch the sun during the day if you have limited sunlight or [consider planting vertically](#).

While you probably are enjoying not having to mow as often, lawns may struggle to stay healthy over winter so you'll likely see more weeds emerging. Keep on top of the mowing and whipper snipping to avoid seed heads forming. Top dress with a light layer of compost and rock minerals, watered in with liquid seaweed and diluted Epsom salts. This will encourage strong root development and a thicker thatch to minimise weeds. Leave the catcher off your mower to self-mulch and return nutrients to the soil for a healthier lawn.

We have a short window to prune our citrus and fruit trees when they become dormant for a brief period. If your trees have finished fruiting or only have a few last season fruit left, June-July is the time to shape them and prune back as needed for next season's growth. If you miss this critical timing, you'll have to wait until next year. If you want to plant more fruit trees, now is the time of year to source bare-rooted varieties to save money on your urban orchard.

As plants don't grow as strongly over the cooler months, they don't have the same water requirements. So adjust your watering to avoid wasting this precious resource. Save rainwater any way you can because winter typically doesn't get as much rain and every drop counts. Keep adding compost and worm castings for [nutrient-rich soil](#) and enriched [potting mix](#) for food crops. Protect crops from wind that can dry them out quickly.

[Container gardens](#) likely need a top-up of fresh potting mix before new plantings. Follow my [potting mix guide](#) to improve bagged potting mix or make your own with easily available ingredients for a long-lasting, moisture and nutrient-holding soil. [Lifeless, dry dead dirt](#) won't grow healthy produce so invest in your health by focusing on your soil first.



What to Plant in June

If you're not sure *when* each of our five seasons starts and ends, or what to plant each month, refer to the perpetual [Subtropical Planting Guide](#). This is prime time for sowing Asian greens, beans, beetroot, all brassicas (broccoli, kale, [rocket](#), tatsoi, cauliflower, cabbages), broad beans, capsicum, carrots, celery, chard, chia, cool-season green manures, eggplant, [garlic](#), leek, lettuce, mizuna, mustard, [peas](#), potato, perpetual spinach, radish, silverbeet [spring onions](#) and cherry tomatoes.

If you are impatient for [peas and beans](#), sow dwarf/bush varieties first, then climbers. The bush peas and beans will produce flowers and pods earlier than climbing varieties because these need to put on more leaf growth

before flowering. The dwarfs will give you a quick crop and 3-4 harvests. By then, your climbers will be producing plenty of peas and beans and will last much longer so you can extend the harvest. A simple strategy for enjoying these vegetables for longer. Sow some peas as [microgreens](#) for crunchy pea shoots.

If you want to save money instead of buying seeds or seedlings, [watch this video](#) I created to help you learn how to grow food for free from kitchen 'waste'. The tips are so easy to apply and sustainable.

Fruits

Try planting Black Sapote, Blueberry, Carambola, Citrus, Coffee, Feijoa, Grape, Guava, Kiwifruit, Mulberry (easy from cuttings taken in the new moon phase), Nectarine, Olive, Papaya, Passionfruit, Peach (try tropical and dwarf varieties), Pomegranate and Strawberry runners. Remember to remove any buds from young fruit trees so they can put energy into growing roots, not fruit in their first year.

If your 'mother' strawberry plants are throwing runners, separate them and feed up well with compost and liquid seaweed to boost new root and shoot growth. Time to sow new strawberry plants now too!

Herbs and flowers

Sow American Upland or Land cress, Angelica, Borage, Calendula, Catnip, Chamomile, Chervil, Chicory, Chives, Coriander (slow bolt), Dill, Fennel, Herb Robert, Hyssop, Lavender, Lemon balm, Lovage, Marjoram, Mint, [Nasturtium](#), Oregano, Parsley, Perennial 'Sawtooth' or Mexican coriander, Rocket, Rosemary, Sage, Salad Burnet, Thyme, Watercress, Winter savory and Winter tarragon. Flowers to sow include Calendula, Cornflower, Dianthus, Marigold, Lobelia, Nemesis, Pansy, Petunia, Sweet Alyssum, Phlox, Snapdragon, Statice, Strawflower, Sweet Pea and Viola.

[Interplant your herbs and flowers between vegetables](#) (particularly brassicas) to attract beneficial predator insects to keep [caterpillars](#) and other [insects](#) in balance.

Issues to watch out for:

- [Fruit fly](#) is a threat we all live with. Unfortunately, mild temperatures mean we could expect them earlier this year, with more generations recurring over coming months. Put your traps in place to minimise damage and control the life cycle. Other strategies that may help are to 1) select early fruiting trees, to miss the fruit fly attack; 2) grow dwarf varieties or keep fruit trees small; 3) cover with suitable exclusion netting.
- Plant a trap crop of Nasturtiums or American Upland Cress to attract the [Cabbage White Butterfly](#) to lay eggs on these plants instead of your brassicas. Sacrificial plants make it easy to squish caterpillars in one spot instead of all over your garden. The cress is toxic to the caterpillars, so this helps break the lifecycle. A sneaky but effective strategy. Decoys, exclusion nets, cloches for young seedlings, interplanting and other [organic controls](#) can help you manage this pest.

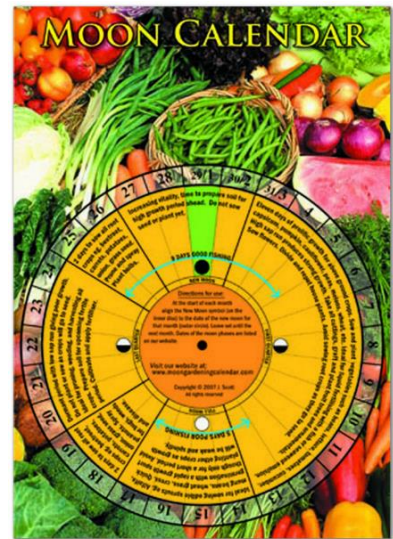
Garden Tasks

- Prune old asparagus ferns, feed and mulch.
- Divide and transplant arrowroot and garlic chives.
- Prune passionfruit vines to remove dead stems and deciduous fruit trees.
- Feed, weed and mulch around fruit trees if you haven't already done so.

- Maintain your tools, build garden beds while it's cool and vertical structures ready for spring planting.
- Sow microgreens seeds for a continuous supply of nutritious leafy greens.

Helpful Gardening Guides

Refer to my laminated double-sided [Subtropical Planting Guide](#) for what to plant now, more pests to watch out for and other key tasks. The perpetual [Moon Calendar Gardening Guide](#) also provides you with exact dates to fine-tune your planting, fertilising, propagation, grafting and sowing activities for optimum abundance. [Learn more about Moon Gardening](#) and [save money when buying both guides with this Special Offer](#).



I hope you've enjoyed these tips. May the year ahead be filled with an abundance of good health and harvests!

Kind regards,



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