

What to do now in June.

- 1) This is your last chance to sow most vegetables. Use appropriate varieties. As soon as one crop is out of the soil, rake it over, sprinkle some general fertilizer over it, and replant with your late crop.
- 2) If you sowed some early new potatoes in pots then they should be ready sometime this month. One sign is when the plant has formed flowers. If you planted a row in the ground then you could rummage carefully in the soil around one of the plants at the end of the month to see if it is worth digging up yet. Keep all potatoes well watered and continue to earth up around the stems as they grow taller.
- 3) If you planted over-wintering onions last Autumn then lift and use them now. They do not store well and there is no need to wait for the foliage to turn yellow and fall over.
- 4) Keep on top of weeding and watch out for pests.
- 5) Net your Strawberries to keep the birds away from the fruit. Be careful how you water them to reduce the risk of rots and mould forming.
- 6) Keep your beans well watered. Train them up their supports which you will have put in place when you sowed/planted them. Once they get a hold they will twine naturally up them.
- 7) Lettuces do not like the direct heat and sun of summer. They are actually a cool season crop. It helps to give them a little shade now. Growing them under horticultural mesh is ideal.
- 8) Remember the golden rule of vegetable growing: steady growth without "checks". Drought is the big risk now. As a general rule, water around the plant and not onto it. Spraying a hose around the garden serves little purpose other than entertaining children and encouraging weeds. Careful watering of the vegetables is better.
- 9) Start harvesting your crops: baby crops are usually more tender and tastier. Don't wait until they are big and "woody". This particularly applies to Beetroot and Broad beans.
- 10) At the very end of the month thin out your Apple and Pear trees. Nature will have made a start with the "June drop". Remove any small or mis-shapen fruit. Leave one good fruit at each point where they have formed on the tree.
- 11) Harvest your Rhubarb until the end of the month and then leave the plant to grow naturally to recover its strength ready for next season. Give it a feed to help it.