



Gardening Jobs in July

- Continue to water plants in containers even if there has been some rain as the foliage can prevent water getting to the soil. Hanging baskets and containers will need watering daily – twice a day if it's hot. Keep feeding weekly with something high in potash such as liquid tomato food.
- Whitefly and red spider mite can become a problem in the greenhouse this month. Use sticky traps hanging over the plants to catch for whitefly. Increasing the humidity in the greenhouse can help control spider mite. If you prefer to use biological controls now is the time to apply them. Also keep an eye out for all the usual suspects such as slugs, snails, aphids, lily beetles and caterpillars.
- Onions will need lots of water this time of year or yields will suffer. Make sure that weeds are kept under control as they will be competing with your crops for water.
- If you fancy own grown new potatoes for Christmas then now is the time to buy “second cropping” potatoes. Charlotte is a good variety and they are best planted in early August and no later than the end of August.
- Seed sowing: continue to sow salad crops such as lettuce, salad leaves, radish, beetroot, salad onions, carrots and chard. French beans can be sown for a late crop.
- Trained fruit trees such as espaliers, cordons, fans and pyramids should be trimmed of unwanted shoots.
- Harvest blackcurrants – if you combine pruning with picking then it will save a job in winter. Blackcurrants need constant renewal to give good crops and next years fruit will come on this years growth so only cut out the branches that have already fruited. Keep well watered and feed after pruning.
- Early July is a good time to harvest lavender – just as they show colour but before the flowers are fully open. Remove the flower stalks whole and hang them in bunches to dry in the shed or lay them on a tray and put them in the airing cupboard. Once dry the flowers can be rubbed off the stalks and used for pot-pourri, lavender bags or cooking.
- Keep dead heading annuals and give them a weekly feed with liquid tomato food to keep them flowering all summer.
- Prune shrubs that have finished flowering in spring and early summer. These shrubs will do best if about one third of the old stems are cut out each year as this lets more light and air into the shrub. Give the plants a general feed after pruning.
- Trim beech and hawthorn hedges.
- As bearded irises finish flowering, lift the clumps if they are congested and split. Replant the rhizomes (stems) just on the surface facing the sun with the fan of leaves behind. This ensures the rhizomes get baked which will encourage flowering.
- Some early-flowering perennials, particularly lupins and delphiniums, can be encouraged to produce a second, smaller, flush of flowers if you cut the stems right down and apply a liquid feed.
- Hungry feeders such as clematis, sweet peas and roses will benefit from a mid-summer feed. Apply a general fertiliser such as Growmore, blood, fish and bone or pelleted poultry manure and water in. Don't feed in late summer as this can encourage new growth which could be caught by an early frost.

- If you feed birds in the garden then don't stop now – especially if we have a wet summer as natural food such as caterpillars and insect larvae may be in short supply so the young birds will suffer.

- In the Pond:

Water lilies are in flower at the moment so it's a good time to choose new ones for your pond - there are lots of colours and sizes available so make sure you choose one the right size for your pond or water feature.

Aphids can attack water lilies – never use chemicals to treat them as they will harm other wildlife. Try and knock aphids off with a hose or submerge the leaves for 24 hours.

Blanket weed can quickly take over so clean it out using a rake. Leave the weed next to the pond for a few days so that any froglets, snails etc that come out with the weed can get back into the water.

Thin out oxygenating weed if it has become congested – again, leave it at the side of the pond for a few days.

Barley straw is an effective remedy to green water and algae. Ready to use nets of barley straw are available at the garden centre or you can make your own by stuffing an old pair of tights with straw and dropping it in the pond.

This information is intended for guidance purposes only. We are happy to give help and advice on most gardening topics at the garden centre.

Eggesford Garden & Country Centre Ltd
Eggesford, Chulmleigh, Devon, EX18 7QU
01769 580250
www.eggesfordgardens.com