



Gardening Jobs in June

- If we get a warm spell then keeping plants well watered will be a priority. Hanging baskets and containers will need watering daily – twice a day if it's hot. Trees and shrubs will benefit from heavy watering once or twice a week. If you water them little and often then it encourages the roots to stay near the surface. Established borders shouldn't need watering, especially if you have applied a good layer of mulch.

- Dealing with pests: **Slugs and snails** will be munching on your lovely new growth – use slug pellets, granules, slug clear liquid, nematodes, traps, copper tape, bran, hunt them by torchlight, encourage wildlife and do anything else you can think of!

Birds such as pigeons can be a real pest – try deterrents such as hanging CDs that spin in the wind, “buzz off” tape that makes a noise in the slightest breeze or cover plants with netting.

Caterpillars – stop them from appearing by covering crops with fine net or fleece or checking for eggs every day (they appear as little yellow or white dots on the underside of leaves so rub them off when you see them). Alternatively use a chemical control such as Provado.

Aphids. They will be multiplying now so if you can't brush them off by hand use chemical or biological controls or sticky traps if under cover.

- Weeds will be enjoying the warm weather so make sure that they don't take over. Use a sharp hoe to weed in the veg patch and amongst the flowers and shrubs. There are different weed-killers available for different parts of the garden so please ask for advice if you need help in choosing which one would suit you.

- Plant out runner beans and French beans in trenches. It's best to put supports in before you plant out the beans. Water them well after planting. Alternatively, seeds can be sown directly outside.

- Outdoor tomatoes can be planted outside now – either in grow bags, large pots or directly in the ground. They will do best in a sheltered south facing spot. Keep them well watered and feed once a week with liquid tomato food once the first fruits have set. Tie them loosely to canes and remember to pinch out the side shoots.

- Harvest all crops as they mature. You should be able to pick your first new potatoes towards the end of the month. Other vegetables include turnips, carrots, beetroot, early peas and broad beans.

- Seed sowing: continue to sow lettuce, salad leaves, radish, turnips, beetroot, salad onions, carrots and chard. Sow runner beans, climbing and dwarf beans in well prepared ground. It's also a good time to sow herbs such as basil, chervil, coriander and parsley.

- The first strawberries will be ready to pick in June. If you haven't got any plants then why not buy some with fruits already showing. They will do well in multi-purpose compost with added John Innes. Feed strawberries with liquid tomato food - once a fortnight until fruit starts to form and then once a week.

- Now is a good time to take runners from strawberries. Place small pots of multi-purpose compost next to the plants and peg a runner in each one. Take only four or five runners from each plant and once they have rooted then cut them off from the main plant. If you don't want more strawberry plants then remove the runners anyway as they weaken the main plant.

- Apples, pears and plums will probably drop fruit in June – this is called the June drop. If you still have excessive amounts of fruit, especially on plums, then thin them out further.

- Rhubarb can be pulled to the end of June but after that the plants should be left to allow them to build up strength again.
- June is a good month for buying perennials and shrubs as there are so many beautiful plants in flower this month. Make sure that new acquisitions are planted with some good compost and well watered in. Don't forget to label them!
- Prune shrubs that have finished flowering such as deutzia, weigela, philadelphus and kolkwitzia. 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.
- If you haven't already done so it's a good idea to put supports around tall perennials as it's much easier to do before the plants get big and floppy.
- Summer bedding can be planted in the borders to fill any gaps. Remember to water them well and feed with liquid tomato food.
- Plants in the greenhouse can really suffer in the heat. Use shading paint or material and mist plants as well as watering regularly. Spraying the floor with water each morning can boost the humidity and this will also help keep red spider mite at bay.
- 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.

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