

What to do in August

General Tasks

Maintain regular watering especially the young seedlings, plugs, carrots, parsnips, tomatoes, peppers, etc. Plants will suffer from blossom end rot or split due to irregular watering.

Have regular checks for any pests. Warm days will help pests to reproduce (indoors and outdoors). For example – Red spider mites. Keep an eye on susceptible crops such as Runner Beans regularly. Spray with plain water to increase humidity.

Continue to lift the earlies potatoes. Leave the main crops in situ until September unless there is a problem with blight. Remove the tops immediately and do not compost the leaves and tubers.

Tomatoes should be ripening if we get any hot weather. Gently twist the fruits away from the truss otherwise move onto the next one.

Sweet corns – once the tassels on the end starts to turn brown, it is a sign that the cobs are ripening. If you peel the outer leaves, pierce the kernel with your fingertips and a milky sap oozes out. This usually means that you can harvest the cobs. Either eat it fresh or freeze it after blanching them for 4 minutes to retain the freshness.

French beans – keep picking them and the plants will be encouraged to produce more. Blanch any excess for a few minutes and freeze it.

Courgettes – maintain regular watering and keep harvesting the crops. Any excess? What about make some courgettes muffins, courgettes chutney, courgettes relish, give away or community bbq?

Kohl Rabi – This is a fast maturing brassica crop. Sweet and cabbage like. They can be eaten raw in salads or be cooked. Don't let it go too dry as it encourages them to run to seed prematurely. They don't like to be disturbed. When they reached the size of a golf ball, start to harvesting them.

Greenhouse

Start to do some seeds sowing so you can harvest in autumn and winter. If there is not much space, grow them in a pot.

You may need to remove some bigger plants to make space for the new plants.

Aubergines – give the plants a good support (i.e. sticks, bamboo canes etc) when the fruits get heavier. Harvest the fruits when it stops swelling, have a shiny skin and firm to touch.

Cucumbers – maintain regular pickings, pick before fruits get too big. Plants get stressed of the soil gets too dry, extremes temperature or irregular feeding.

Damp down the path to lower higher temperatures.

Indoor tomatoes – remove any curled, blotchy or tatty leaves so the plants can get more light or air to ripen the fruits. If the plants are big and healthy with little fruits, maybe it is an indication of too much nitrogen. Cut down on the extra feeds, reduce watering and cut back the excess foliage to encourage fruiting.

Fruits

Strawberries – young plants that have been bought or grown at home from runners can be planted now to replace the old ones.

Harvest all the fruits that are ready – make it into jams, compotes, jellies, cakes, biscuits, etc.

Sow Now	Plant Now	Harvest Now
Spring Onions	Salad Plug Plants	Lettuces
Endive	Kale	Potatoes
Lettuces	Winter Cabbages	Leafy Salads
Kohl Rabi	Winter Cauliflowers	Radish
Leaf Beets		Spinach
Radish		Globe Artichokes
Land Cress		Tomatoes
Salad Leaves		Calabrese
Spring Cabbages		French Beans
Oriental Cabbages		Chillies
Turnips		Beetroot
Carrots		Peppers
Autumn Onion Seeds		Aubergines
		Cauliflowers
		Courgettes
		Summer Cabbages
		Parsnips
		Celery
		Endives