

What to do in June

General Tasks

Check your potatoes especially your first earlies. You might be harvesting by the end of the month if you have planted them in March. Once they have flowered, it is a sign that they are ready. Dig around for the size. Be careful when you dig up the potatoes. Do not pierce it with your fork or cut it with your spade but we all do it. Keep up with your regular maintenance.

You can start picking the mature pods if you have sown broad beans early. Be careful not to damage the stems since you may get more pods from the higher stems. Carefully cut off the top tips if you have black fly once all the flowers have set.

Any cauliflowers sowed in April, they should be ready for planting out in the well-manured soil. Spread some general fertiliser around the growing area.

Young courgette plants should be quite well established by now and they can be planted out once the risk of frost is least likely to happen. Choose a sunny but sheltered spot and the soil have been manured during the winter month. Add chicken pellets into the planting hole. Water regularly during the season and feed occasionally with a tomato fertiliser.

Thin out any carrots from early sowings to give the strong ones more space to grow. Try to do it in the evening. Don't leave the thinnings on the bed as the smell will attract the carrot flies. If possible, sow carrots every few weeks until the end of July so you can get continuous supply of carrots.

Keep weeding. Weeds compete for water and nutrients including harbouring pests. Weed during the dry day so the roots will dry out quickly.

One of the ways to deal with pests is to use companion plants. They help to distract the pests from attacking the crops. For example, nasturtiums attract blackfly, garlic and onions help to deter the carrot fly, calendula is good for tomato plants as it helps to deter the tomato worms although it is a general good companion plant for all. Tomato plants shouldn't be planted with potatoes because they are from the same family and if the tomato plants are affected with blight, it will affect the potato plants. The flowers from the poached eggs plant attract the pollinators like hoverflies and bees.

If the weather is hot, try to water the plants during evening time, there is less chance of evaporation. Concentrate on the newly planted and hound seedlings to give them a strong start.

In The Greenhouse

Don't forget to remove side shoots of the tomato plants and provide support. Make sure that they have enough light, air and water. Get rid of any discoloured or diseased leaves before any potential problem starts to spread. Provide potash-rich liquid feed every 7 to 10 days although it might be better to provide a more dilute feed to the plants on a more regular basis. So you don't have to remember when is the last time you fed the plants.

Keep sowing to get continuous crops. For example, beetroot, radishes and so on.....

Be on alert for any pests and diseases on any plants (indoor and outdoor). Early detection is the best way to deal with them.

Leave the doors and windows open for ventilation during the day but keep them ajar at night unless you are convinced that it won't be too cold at night and leave them open.

Be organised and neat so there will be fewer pests around. Use mulches to retain moisture and suppresses the weeds.

Peppers, melons and aubergines must be planted into their growing space by early June. They will suffer if they remain in the small pots since they have only a short season to produce fruits.

It might be a good idea to give plants a helping hand by using a small feather or a soft brush to pollinate the flowers if there isn't any detection of insects buzzing around.

Earth up cucumbers by using compost and put it around the stem. It is a useful traits to keep the plants healthy and productive.

Fruits

Protect any early varieties of strawberry plants with netting from birds as they will be fruiting soon. Make it tight so it won't trap the birds. Use straws as a mulch to prevent the fruits from touching the soil or nibble by the slugs.

When it comes to large fruit trees, it is difficult to protect the whole tree with netting. Probably the best way is to protect the fruits from the low branches and sacrifice the higher branches. It will be a bonus if they left it alone.

Raspberries will be cropping soon so be on the lookout for any pests.

Keep on watering the soft fruit bushes during dry season to prevent them from being stressed.

Provide fertiliser if need be.

Sow Now	Plant Now	Harvest Now
Runner and climbing beans Dwarf French beans Carrots Chicory Endive Lettuce Kale Kohl rabi Peas Beetroot Winter cabbage (early June) Radish Swedes Sweetcorn Turnips	Broccoli Brussels sprouts Summer cabbages Cauliflowers Peppers Kale Leeks Celery Celeriac Cucumbers Squashes Tomatoes Sweetcorn	Strawberries Early potatoes Leafy salads Radish Rhubarb Spinach Salad onions