

GROW YOUR OWN FRUIT AND VEGETABLES & OTHER GARDEN TIPS – June 2022

The daylight hours peak on the 21st with warm nights, so plant out tender annuals such as cosmos, zinnias, tomato plants, courgettes, squashes, runner beans and sweetcorn. Aubergines, peppers, melons, cucumbers and more tomatoes can be put in their final position in a greenhouse. Regularly pinch out side-shoots on tomatoes.

Keep a succession of sowings of lettuce - small sowings every 2 – 3 weeks for a steady supply. Lettuce and salads can be attractively fitted in to spaces in borders or into pots.

As well as sowing and planting out also cut back by half the height some perennials to encourage second flowering. Forget-me-nots, tulips and wallflowers can be cleared or moved to make room for the new planting that takes place at the beginning of the month. Now is also the time to take semi ripe cuttings from flowering shrubs, such as viburnums, lavender, rosemary, penstemons, etc.

Most roses have one major flowering season from the end of May to mid June, so to make the most of this. It is essential to deadhead daily so that all the energy goes into making as many new blooms as possible rather than converting the pollinated flowers into seed. The best approach is to use a pair of secateurs and to cut back to the first leaf below the spent flower. A new shoot will then grow from this point.

June is a month when weeds really kick into action so all vegetable plots and borders need regular weeding and nothing better than a hoe! The secret of effective hoeing is to do it in dry weather and preferably in the morning so that the weeds will be cut cleanly from the soil and then dry out and die during the day. Then rake them up in the afternoon and take to the compost heap - important to do this if weeds have formed flower heads.

Apple or pear trees suddenly drop hundreds of small fruits on the ground - 'June Drop'. The tree is reducing the quantity of fruit to ripen successfully. It is good to selectively remove the smallest fruit so that two fruits that are not touching each other. This will also reduce risk of codling moth damage as eggs are usually laid in crack between touching fruit.

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