

July

Growing Guide with Camellia Taylor



July in the greenhouse and garden is a time of quiet abundance. The rush of spring sowing has passed and now it's about nurturing what's already growing. I water deeply, feed regularly and enjoy the slow swell of ripening fruit, especially the tomatoes and cucumbers. The tomatoes form a backdrop to the greenhouse, hanging heavy on the vine, while cucumbers twist and climb through the space and pots. The warm air is filled with the scent of herbs and I find myself pausing to notice everything, both inside the greenhouse and just beyond it.



The seeds that once felt so tiny and started out in the greenhouse are now producing food: fruits and vegetables slowly maturing in the garden. With everything growing fast, the focus now is on tending: tying in stems, pinching out the side shoots and making sure nothing goes thirsty. These small rituals hold the rhythm of summer steady and help keep the harvests coming.

In the Greenhouse

Tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers

Keep feeding weekly to support fruiting. Water regularly and consistently to avoid split fruit and ventilate well on hot days to prevent overheating.

Aubergines and chillies

Pinch out the growing tips once the plants are about 30–40cm tall to encourage bushier growth and more flowers. Hand-pollinate if needed by gently tapping the base of the flowers, cotton buds work well too.

Herbs

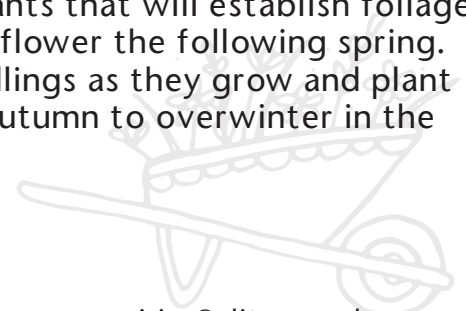
Harvest regularly to encourage fresh growth. Water in the morning and avoid splashing the leaves to prevent mildew.

Salad leaves

Sow quick crops like rocket, mizuna and mustard for a late summer harvest. Grow in trays or shallow pots and keep well-watered to avoid bitterness.

Biennials and hardy annuals

Sow foxgloves, wallflowers and honesty now for strong plants that will establish foliage this year and flower the following spring. Thin out seedlings as they grow and plant them out in autumn to overwinter in the ground.



Softwood cuttings

Take softwood or semi-ripe cuttings from pelargoniums, salvias or scented-leaved herbs. They'll root quickly in the summer warmth and give you new plants for next season.

Seed saving

Let a few annuals or herbs like basil, coriander or nigella go to seed. Save them for next year, or let them self-sow if you have the space.



Pests and disease

Keep an eye out for red spider mite and aphids, which thrive in dry, warm conditions. Ventilate daily, damp down greenhouse floors, and remove yellowing leaves to improve airflow. Watch for signs of tomato or potato blight outdoors, especially after humid weather.

General care

Damp down the floor on hot days to raise humidity and cool the air. Tie in and support climbing crops and try to use shade to prevent scorching. Clear fallen leaves or overripe fruit to avoid attracting pests.

Time to move them on

By July, seedlings sown in early summer may be starting to outgrow their trays or modules. Once you see those first true leaves, it's a sign they're ready for more space. Ease them out carefully, I

always hold them by a leaf rather than the stem and pot them into a 9cm pot with fresh compost. This gives them the best chance to establish strong roots. Keep them shaded for a day or two after transplanting and water well.

In the Garden

By July, the garden feels full, a tapestry of plants that, only a few months ago, were seeds in trays in the greenhouse. The tomatoes and cucumbers that were moved outside (I grow both inside and out) are now climbing in their outdoor spots, with fruit beginning to swell. Courgettes are in full swing, throwing out flowers and young fruit almost daily. Beans stretch up their frames, twisting and flowering as they go.



In the garden

In the borders, cosmos, scabious and ammi are flowering. Their stems are just long enough for picking and the more you cut, the more they give. I love being able to bring a few bunches indoors to enjoy.

Soft fruits like raspberries are at their peak too and perfect for grabbing as you pass. Keep harvesting regularly to encourage more and water deeply in dry spells to stop everything rushing to seed.

This is the moment when the garden starts to offer back everything you've given it and it's pure joy

Thinking About Water

After weeks of heat, water becomes something you notice more how quickly it disappears, and how essential it is to keep things growing.

My greenhouse has a small reservoir that collects rainwater from the roof and I find it so important to use what's been gathered. It's a good reminder that even small systems can make a difference, especially in dry spells.



July is a great time to think ahead: could you install a water butt, add a gutter to your greenhouse or shed, or redirect runoff.

Mulching beds, watering in the early morning or evening and prioritising crops like courgettes, tomatoes and beans are small shifts that help make the most of what you've got and help the garden take care of itself, even in the heat.

Composting and soil care

As early crops are cleared, it's a good time to refresh pots and greenhouse beds with well-rotted compost.

Mulch around thirsty outdoor crops to retain moisture and suppress weeds, especially helpful during heatwaves.

Looking ahead

Now's a good time to start thinking about late-summer sowing and autumn planting. Consider ordering spring-flowering bulbs and make a note of where you might want colour or structure next year. You can also prepare to sow spinach, kale and chard in early August for autumn harvests.



About the author

Camellia Taylor is a garden designer, soon-to-be landscape architect and founder of The Garden Taylor, a studio rooted in thoughtful, people-focused design. With a background in psychology, Camellia brings a unique perspective to her work, creating gardens and landscapes that are not only beautiful but emotionally restorative.

Her practice spans private gardens, community spaces and therapeutic landscapes, with a focus on connecting people to nature in meaningful ways. Her design ethos is rooted in empathy and seasonality, with a belief that gardens can offer beauty, purpose and a deeper connection to the natural world.



Jobs at a glance

- Feed fruiting crops weekly
- Water deeply and ventilate greenhouses
- Sow quick-growing salads and biennials
- Pot on seedlings and thin out crowded trays
- Harvest fruit, flowers and herbs regularly
- Take softwood cuttings
- Save seed from herbs and self-sowers
- Watch for blight, aphids and red spider mite
- Mulch and compost as you clear spent crops
- Start planning for autumn and spring



Where to find out more

thegardentaylor.com
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