

JOBS FOR SEPTEMBER IN THE VEG GARDEN



1. Keep vigilant against **pests**. Red Spider mite (see [Dee's Blog](#) for advice on pest control) and caterpillars can still cause a lot of damage.
2. Finish harvesting **onions**. When the tops have turned brown, loosen the plants with a garden fork to stop them growing. After a few days lift them and leave them somewhere to dry out completely before storing them (see [the Articles](#) for more on onions).
3. Keep picking **runner & French beans**. This will help to ensure a continuous crop until the frosts arrive.
4. Keep harvesting **cabbages** as they become ready. When pulling them, make sure you take all of the roots out. If you leave them in, they can encourage disease. Assuming they're healthy, the stem and roots can be bashed with a mallet (or something similar) to crush them prior to adding to the compost heap.
5. **Cauliflowers** can be sown if protected by cold frames or under cloches. They need to grow in a very firm soil. If you're planting them in a bed that has had beans or peas (legumes) growing in it, don't pull the legume stems out when they've finished. If they're disease free, hoe them off leaving the roots in the ground for their nitrogen fixing abilities, and then flatten the soil (the back of a rake works well).
6. Cut down **blackberry** canes to ground level once they've fruited.
7. Avoid leaving soil bare over the winter months. Plant a green manure such as **Hungarian Grazing Rye** (*Secale cereale*). This is very hardy and especially useful for sowing at this time of year. It's a great weed suppressant that will need thorough and careful digging in during the springtime.
8. Cut back the feathery fronds of **Asparagus** as soon as they turn yellow. Ensure all weeds are cleared away from the shallow roots, which will also help to keep the asparagus beetle away. Top dress with well-rotted manure and mulch with compost, which will help to suppress annual and winter germinating weeds and keep the soil moist.
9. Stake **Brussels sprouts** to prevent them toppling over in the wind.
10. Container grown **fruit trees** and bushes are at risk from Vine Weevils, particularly at this time of year. Look out for tell-tale signs of notches in leaves. The notches are usually ragged and start at the leaf edge. Nematodes can be ordered now and watered into the soil (see [links](#) for suppliers).



Suggested Varieties to Plant/Sow Now:

Some of these may need to be grown under cover – cloches, polytunnels, greenhouses or cold frames.

Cauliflower (under cloches or in Polytunnel)

Summer Savoury (under glass)

Winter spinach

Winter lettuce

Endive

Pak Choi (Mizuna Greens)

Radish

Rocket

Turnips

Skirret (cousin of carrot, available from www.organiccatalogue.com)

Calabrese under cloches, cold frame or polytunnel

Scallions

Japanese Onion sets



Skirret

Tips for September

Encourage hedgehogs into your garden by provide nesting and overwintering boxes ready for hibernation. Hedgehogs begin to hibernate in October or November, depending on the weather.



Hedgehogs are real gardener's friends as they eat slugs, beetles,



grubs, leatherjackets and caterpillars as well as baby mice and rats. They can be fed with cat-food, peanuts or pesticide-free invertebrate food. Milk and bread can cause upset stomachs so should be avoided. Check out www.noticenature.ie for more information on encouraging wildlife and biodiversity in your garden.