

# DAVID STEPHEN'S

with monthly guide by  
**PETER CUNDALL**

## ORGANIC GROWING CALENDAR

### TASKS FOR THE SEASON

The summer season is an important time to start preparation for food crops which can sustain a family through the dormant part of the year and even into spring. Successional sowings of silver beet, celery, beetroot, carrot and parsnip will make for better eating and disease free crops, compared with those sown in earlier months. I will be eating peas, corn and broad beans in the Autumn from seeds sown this month. Continue to pinch back cucurbits (cucumber, pumpkin etc.) to stop them rambling, and to increase yields. First year strawberry plants must have runners removed quickly to preserve their energy. Second year plants grow fewer runners and these too must be cut, not pulled off.

## JANUARY

If you can get potato tubers to sprout vigorously this month, it is worth putting in one last crop before first frost. Check main crop onions for fungal disease: If the roots have rotted away, they must be eaten soon. Seedlings of brassicas are best planted so that their base leaves are about soil level. This is important for the top-heavy group (includes cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli and brussels sprouts) which may otherwise fall over with a kinked stem. Also, when transplanting, ensure that any taproots are not bent upwards.

### GARDEN HINTS

- To prevent wind damage, brussels sprouts should be staked carefully so as not to damage the roots. Tie a strip of panty hose around the stake before attaching to the plants stems.
- A late potato crop can be started if seed tubers can be encouraged to bud. Refrigerate them to encourage this.
- You may find wide strips of corrugated cardboard more successful than underfelt or hessian for trapping codlin moth larva when placed around the trunk of an apple tree.
- The budding of fruit trees, particularly stone fruits, can only be done when the bark of the current season's growth will peel off, usually January or February. Chip budding is done in summer to mid-autumn, particularly if the bark will not lift.
- Make sure all fallen fruit is collected up to avoid attracting fruit eating beetles and European wasps. Inedible fruit infested with codlin moth grub should be destroyed by shredding with your rotary mower.
- Use seaweed extract ('Maxicrop', 'Seasol', etc.) as a foliar spray to assist your tree's immunity against powdery mildew, black spot, brown rot, leaf curl and deficiency diseases. Spray 1-4 times per month.

## S U M M E R AUSTRALIAN HERBAL CALENDAR

### DIVIDE ROOTS OF THE FOLLOWING:

CHAMOMILE  
SWEET WOODRUFF  
HYPERICUM  
MINT  
SOAPWORT

### PARSLEY:

There are three good cultivars: all biennials - sown by seed in Spring or Autumn.  
1) **CURLY PARSLEY:** Widespread popularity. Tends to yellow-off in cold damp conditions during Autumn.  
2) **PLAIN LEAF PARSLEY:** More hardy. Stronger flavoured than above. Self-sows readily.  
3) **TURNIP-ROOTED PARSLEY:** Develops turnip like edible root. Otherwise same as above. Remember, chewing a sprig of parsley will help to dispel the aroma of onion or garlic on your breath.

### COLLECT FOR DRYING:

HYSSOP, LAVENDER, SUMMER SAVOURY, THYME, BASIL, BERGAMOT, SWEET BAY, CAMPHOR, PYRETHRUM, LEMON GRASS, PELARGONIUMS:  
(Varieties of nutmeg, spice, lemon, mint, coconut, apple, cinnamon and peppermint)

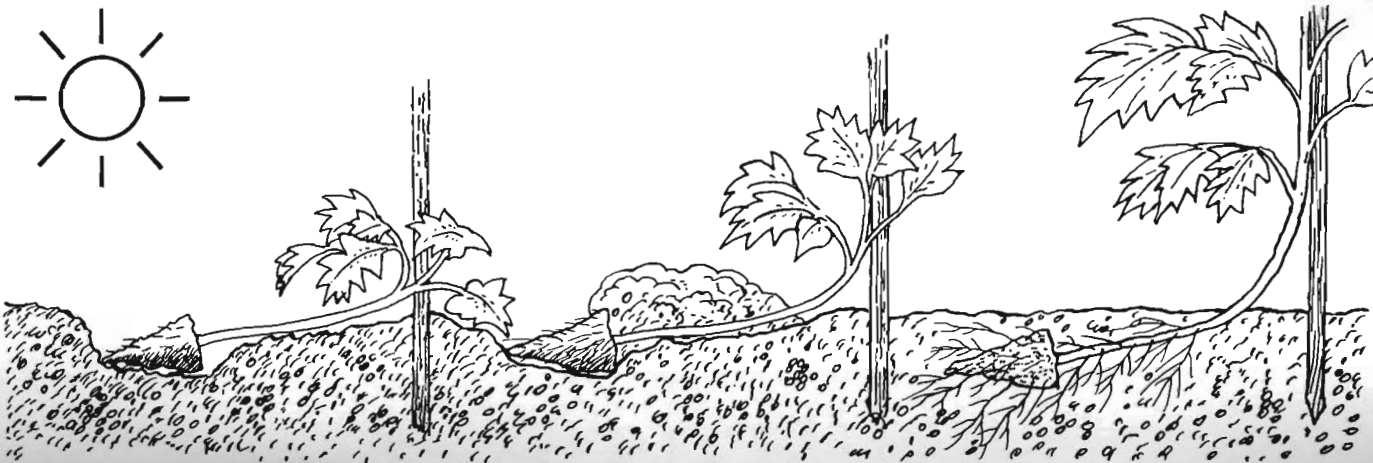
### HERBS FOR DRIED

### FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS:

KOREAN MINT  
CLARY SAGE  
YARROW  
LUNARIA  
LOVE-IN-A-MIST (NIGELLA)  
GARLIC SEED HEADS  
TANSY

### PETER CUNDALL'S GUIDE

Pear and cherry slug is now attacking pear, plum, cherry, almond, hawthorn, rowan and even peach trees. Pyrethrum with a dash of Clensel will devastate these pests relatively safely. Codlin moth grubs will continue to hatch unless controlled by an ovicide such as one part of white oil to fifty of water, sprayed on to all parts of the canopies of apples, pears and quinces. Prune raspberry, currant bramble and gooseberry bushes.



### TRENCH PLANTED TOMATOES

Leggy tomato plants (tail seedlings) should be planted horizontally into a shallow trench where the soil is heavy or badly drained. This way the roots avoid the cold, wet lower layers, so growth is more vigorous. Roots form along the entire length of the buried stem and the new growth is vertical.