

Get Early Crops Ready to Harvest



Are you hungry for tiny new potatoes?

Has all this rain threatened to split your cabbage heads?

Looking for something new to plant in the vegetable garden now?

Here's advice on how to make the most of your garden right now. We're sorry to all of you who lost major portions of your gardens to hail, wind and worse last weekend. We do have some replacement plants. Also plant seeds that mature in around 75 days or less.

Potatoes

We've had a number of reports that people who have attempted to harvest new potatoes have been disappointed to find very small potatoes. To see if your plants have potatoes large enough to eat, gently dig down just below the stem with your hand. Do not try to harvest from plants that haven't

or aren't blooming. Be gentle so you don't disturb the entire plant. If you find potatoes large enough, steal 2 or 3 from a few plants to satisfy your hunger.

Potatoes are ready to harvest when the stems have completely died down. This will happen soon for early varieties like Red Norland. Do dig your potatoes rather than "storing" them in the ground so your yields are not diminished by insects and rot. Dig with a fork, rather than a shovel, to minimize damage to the spuds. Cure them in a shady (dark is better), dry place for about a week before storing inside.

Garlic



If you haven't already, remove scapes (the flower and its stem) from your garlic plants so energy is directed to the growing bulb. Keep them weed free. If you're hankering to grow your own garlic and haven't, it's planted in the fall and we'll have it available in September. We do have a call list if you want us to let you know when it arrives. We will proudly offer Minnesota-grown garlic from a small, family farm.

Onions & Shallots

If your onion tops are flopping over it's time to start digging your crop. Cure onions after digging by hanging them (braided or not) or setting them on cardboard in, yes, that shady, dry place.

Leaf Crops like lettuce, spinach & cilantro

Harvest before they bolt (go to seed) in hot weather. Save space to sow another crop in August.

Cabbage

All of the rain we've had may cause your promising cabbage heads to split. Prevent this by holding a head firmly in both hands and turning the head a quarter turn one direction and stopping. This will break some of the stem but that will stop the flow of some of the water to the head and hopefully keep it from splitting. Scout and treat for cabbage looper (see below).

Broccoli

Harvest main head when ready, keep harvesting the side shoots and plan to sow seed for new plants in August. These make a great fall crop. Scout and treat for cabbage looper.

Daikon (left) & Watermelon (right) Radish



These large radishes make a great fall crop too and they store well in the fridge as you eat them over winter. These are mild, tasty radishes that make great additions to winter salads. They take about 60 days to mature and are best grown in late summer/fall. Sow some seeds in mid-August.



Ornamental Kale/Ornamental Cabbage

This makes a wonderful color show in fall as temperatures cool but is not necessarily for eating. Sow seed now or wait for our plants.

Pests to scout & treat for this week

As mentioned above, [cabbage looper](#). Treat with floating row covers, Dipel dust, Dragoon Dust, Sevin or Eight Dust.

[Squash Vine Borer](#) on cucurbits like zucchini & pumpkin. Treat with Spionsad, Captain Jack's Deadbug or the above mentioned products or spray with Sevin or Eight.

[Apple Maggot](#). Keep up your spray routine. Sticky traps also help.

Are you growing for our contests?

[Click for late summer contest schedule.](#)

Sales for Growing Rewards Members this week

Are you looking for something fun to decorate with for the holiday weekend? Along with flags, bunting and patriotic votive holders we have some fun items on sale from Thursday, July 1 through Wednesday, July 7.

- All frog decor items, from ceramics, to Yoga-posing frogs in resin to rain gauges, are 20% off regular price.
- Red, white & blue petunia bowls, with a flag, are \$9.99, regularly \$12.99 (1.1 gal./4.18 L.)
- Fruit trees are \$10 off.

These specials are limited to in-stock items only and no other discounts or promotions apply.

Remember, you can still redeem your hidden coupon for a reusable Drummers bag through Saturday, July 3 if you haven't yet had a chance. It's quick, easy and free to join the [Growing Rewards Program](#) and we keep all of your information confidential.