

# July in flowers

## Seeds to sow

*If you have sown your biennials and you have full and abundant beds, then pour a long, cold drink and just enjoy your garden. (If not, sow biennials as soon as you can.)*

*July is a month for simply enjoying the fruits of your labour.*

*Time to order hardy annuals for autumn sowing, but that is it.*

## Flowers to harvest

*Armfuls and armfuls of flowers*

- / Nigella
- / Roses (keep feeding & cutting)
- / Bupleurum
- / Ammi
- / Sweet peas
- / Phlox, both perennial & annual
- / The first hydrangeas
- / Echinops
- / Bronze fennel
- / The first dahlias, if you are lucky
- / Achillea
- / Nicotiana
- / Cornflowers
- / Opium poppy seed heads
- / Grasses, including *Stipa gigantea*
- / Mint
- / Cosmos
- / Scabious
- / Strawflowers
- / Sunflowers

## Other jobs for this month

/ Just keep cutting. Cut & come again flowers will keep giving you flowers as long as you keep cutting.

/ Some annual plants will be fading now. Pull them out and replace with later sown ones, or with biennials. Tuck seedlings and young plants into gaps.

/ Water, especially pots. Use rain water if you possibly can. In our increasingly hot and dry climate, one long drink every few days is much better than a daily sprinkle. Use mulches of gravel or slate, or additional top-dressings of compost on pots or dry areas to keep moisture in the soil and reduce evaporation.

/ Ensure that there is water for insects too. A bowl full of stones, topped up with water, is perfect.

/ We are passing the turn of the year and my thoughts turn to preserving the abundance of the season. Hang ammi, sanguisorba, honesty and grasses, even dahlias, to dry in a cool, dark, dry place.