



*A year in the
garden*

The Complete Planner

January in the Garden....

January in the garden is a time for quiet reflection and preparation for spring. While there may not be as much activity as in other seasons, there are still plenty of tasks to be done, and much to appreciate in the winter landscape.

Jobs to do

Prune & Tidy

- Inspect garden structures, trellises, and fences for any winter damage, and repair them as necessary.
- Ensure that all plants are well-protected from the cold weather. This can be done by covering sensitive plants with blankets or burlap or moving them to a more sheltered location.
- Protect potted plants with a wrap around the pot too.
- Protect outside taps from frost.
- Ensure all tree ties are adequately fitting especially on young growing trees.
- Get your garden tools clean and sharpened for use.
- Check if your lawnmower needs a service.
- Trim away any dead or diseased branches from deciduous trees and shrubs.
- Prune overgrown deciduous hedges whilst they are dormant, and before the birds start nesting. Only hard prune one side or the top to avoid stressing the plants too much.
- Cut back ornamental grasses.
- Prune roses.
- Prune wisteria, shoots are shortened to two or three buds along the side stems.
- Prune winter flowering shrubs.
- Apply organic fertiliser around the base of shrubs, hedges, trees, and throughout borders.
- Deadhead containers with winter flowering pansies.
- Check container plants are not drying out.

January Continued

Sow & Plant

- Start sowing cold-hardy annuals indoors.
- Relocating established trees and shrubs can be done now. Ensure you dig up as much of the rootball as possible, stake, and water in well.
- Plant deciduous hedging plants
- Take hardwood cuttings of trees and shrubs.
- Take root cuttings from perennials.

Pests

- Check your overwintering plants for any signs of pests or disease.
- Check your greenhouse for mice.

Lawns

- Keep off icy grass
- Improve drainage using a garden fork. Poke the fork into the wet parts of the lawn, about 15cm deep, and move it around a bit to open the holes. Do this in as many places as you can. After doing this spread and brush sharp sand over the holes to stop them closing up again quickly.
- Repair bumps and dips in the lawn. Remove some soil from underneath the turf if its a bump and for a dip place some extra soil under the turf to raise it.

Ponds

- Watch for long periods of frost as fish in the pond need a small area of the ice to be defrosted to get enough oxygen. Melt some ice by sitting a pan of hot water on the ice.

Wildlife

- Check and fill bird feeders, making sure the birds have easy access to clean drinking water.
- Take care turning compost heaps as hedgehogs or grass snakes could be hibernating there.

Roses to Prune

- Rose name and Location:.....
 - Fertiliser applied:.....
 - Pruning completed
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- Rose name and Location:.....
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2025

January

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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January

Monthly garden review

Keeping Track of Your Garden's Needs

Maintaining your garden is a continuous process that requires attention to detail. Consider keeping a note of things that might need changing or moving, such as plants that clash or overcrowd each other, paths that aren't properly placed, and so on. Additionally, as climate patterns shift, you may find that some plants no longer thrive in your garden and require replacement.

Plants and areas that are doing well:

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Areas to Improve:

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Ways to Make Changes:

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February in the Garden...

February is a transitional month in the garden. While winter is still in full swing, signs of spring are starting to appear. Snowdrops and crocuses are blooming, and daffodils and tulips are pushing up through the soil. It's a good time to start planning and preparing for the coming growing season.

Jobs to do

Pruning and Tidying

- Keep up with pruning deciduous trees and shrubs.
- Finish pruning roses.
- Cut back clematis that flowered in spring and early summer.
- Prune late flowering shrubs at the end of the month.
- Cut back (coppice) willow trees.
- Make plant supports.
- Clean pots and containers before spring planting.
- Get garden beds ready by pulling weeds and mulching with well-rotted manure, homemade compost, or organic soil improver.
- Thoroughly clean the greenhouse.

Sowing and Planting

- Plant bare-root roses, trees, and shrubs.
- Continue sowing hardy annual seeds indoors.
- Repot cuttings.
- Plant lily bulbs in pots or in the garden. Make sure cats cannot reach the stamen when in flower.
- Large clumps of snowdrops can now be dug up, divided, and replanted in other spots of the garden.
- Any herbaceous perennials that have outgrown their space can still be dug up divided and replanted.

February Continued

Lawns

- Keep off icy grass
- Improve drainage using a garden fork. Poke the fork into the wet parts of the lawn, about 15cm deep, and move it around a bit to open the holes. Do this in as many places as you can. After doing this spread and brush sharp sand over the holes to stop them closing up again quickly.
- Dig out lawn weeds.
- In milder areas you can mow the very top of the lawn.
- Repair bumps and dips in the lawn. Remove some soil from underneath the turf if its a bump and for a dip place some extra soil under the turf to raise it.

Ponds

- Watch for long periods of frost as fish in the pond need a small area of the ice to be defrosted to get enough oxygen. Melt some ice by sitting a pan of hot water on the ice.
- Now is a good time to dig and line a new pond.

February

2025

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February

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March

in the Garden....

March is a month of change in the garden, as the snow melts and the ground starts to defrost. This period serves as a crucial time to prepare for the coming spring and summer seasons.

Jobs to do

Prune & Tidy

- Divide and transplant perennials as necessary.
- Prune summer-flowering shrubs and climbers, such as clematis.
- Tidy up ornamental grasses and perennial plants before new growth begins.
- Trim evergreen hedges and topiary once the threat of frost has passed.
- Before new growth begins, prune one-third of hydrangea shrubs.
- Cut back forsythia, as soon as it finishes flowering, trimming it down to strong, young shoots.
- Prune willow and dogwood.
- To maintain soil moisture, spread mulch.
- As plants begin to grow, apply homemade compost or organic manure to fertilise them.
- Refresh permanently potted plants with a fresh top dressing. Simply remove the top layer of old compost, which is about 2-3 inches (5-7.5cm) deep, and replace it with an equal amount of fresh compost. Use a fork to blend it with the old compost surface.
- Ensure that all water butts are clean and filling up before the drier months.
- Purchase or make a cold frame and/or compost bin.
- Harvest hazel or silver birch now before the leaves emerge for use as pea sticks and garden supports.
- Check the greenhouse heaters are working properly.
- Make sure all plant supports are in place before new growth emerges.

Sow & Plant

- Hardy annual seeds can be sown indoors in March
- Wait until mid-month to sow half-hardy annuals when light levels improve and nights are warmer.

March Continued

Sow & Plant

- Sow perennial seeds.
- Increase your perennial plant collection by taking basal stem cuttings from the stems now.
- Propagate shrubs using the layering technique.
- Winter-sown sweet peas should be pinched out to encourage side shoots for bushier plants.
- From late March -April flower seeds can be directly sown into prepared garden beds.
- Prick out annual seedlings. Transplant everything that has true leaves into their own pot. Make sure to handle little plants by their leaves not stems.
- Chrysanthemum plant cuttings can be taken now and are easy to root.
- Pot on rooted cuttings of plants taken last summer.
- Plant summer flowering bulbs i.e. lilies, freesias, gladioli, and crocosmia.
- Pot up dahlia tubers into pots to be kept under cover until all frosts have passed.
- Finish planting trees, shrubs, bareroot roses, new hedges, and perennials.
- Move any evergreen shrubs you want to relocate.

Lawn Care

- Scarify and aerate the lawn if not yet done.
- Re-seed any bare patches on the lawn and cut regularly on dry days if grass starts growing. Only removing the top third.
- Feed the lawn with an appropriate fertiliser.
- Repair any damage to the lawn edges.
- For new lawns, either sow lawn seed on well-prepared soil and keep it moist until germination, or lay new turf and keep it moist until established.
- Start mowing the lawn with the blades on the highest setting.

Ponds

- Clean out the leaves that have fallen into the water.
- Start feeding the fish again - little and often.
- Lighting and submersible pumps can now be put back into the pond.

Pests

- Keep an eye out for signs of slugs and snails.

Wildlife

- Keep providing birds with fresh water and food.
- Hang bird and bee nesting boxes.

2025
March

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March

Monthly garden review

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in the Garden....

April is the perfect time to start sprucing up your garden. Here are some tasks you can tackle this month to get your garden in tip-top shape.

Jobs to do

Prune & Tidy

- Tidy up the last of the perennial plants.
- Deadhead the last of the spring flowering bulbs.
- Cut back shrubs grown for their colourful stems such as elder, cotinus, and dogwood to a bud about 2 feet high, then feed and mulch.
- Prune late summer flowering clematis back to about a foot and mulch.
- Hoe newly sprouting weeds on sunny days so they die off quickly.
- Dig out weeds such as bindweed or place as many branches as possible in a sealed plastic bag and spray inside the bag with weedkiller.
- Shape lavender plants by snipping off old flower stems and shoot tips, do not cut into the woody stems.
- Tie in your climbing rose branches to encourage more flowers by bending over any stems and tying them horizontally or curling in circles to produce more flowers.
- Hedges and topiaries are safe to prune if no more frost is forecast, then apply fish, blood, and bonemeal.

Sow & Plant

- Direct sow hardy annuals into the garden.
- Seedlings that were started off indoors can now be placed outside on warm days, to harden them off for about a week before planting them out.
- Start planting out half-hardies in sheltered spots.
- Prick out seedlings.
- Sow perennial seeds and place in a light, cool spot, e.g., a window ledge
- Thin out seeds sown in the garden.
- Pot on cuttings.
- Plant out sweet peas two plants to each support stick.

April Continued

Lawn Care

- Mow regularly.
- Continue to correct lumps and bumps as per January/February.
- Remove weeds individually.
- Reseed bare patches or lay new pieces of turf.
- Apply moss killer now if needed.

Ponds

- Clean out established ponds if this hasn't been done in the last 5-6 years.
- Divide and replant large or overcrowded pond plants.
- Plant new aquatic plants if needed.

Pests

- Be vigilant for slugs, snails, and vine weevils. If needed use the appropriate biological control measures.
- Check roses and other plants for aphids.
- Spray roses for blackspot if needed with 'Sulphur Rose spray'.
- Equally watch for rabbits, mice, and deer chewing on new young plant leaves.

Wildlife

- Keep filling your bird feeders to encourage little birds to help with pest control in the garden.
- Look out for toads and hedgehogs when tidying the garden. Possibly leaving some areas untouched for them to hide.

2025
April

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April

Monthly garden review

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Ways to Make Changes:

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May in the Garden....

May is a magical month in the garden. The lush green foliage provides a perfect backdrop for delicate flowers in shades of pink, white, and purple. These fill the air with their sweet fragrance, creating a serene and peaceful atmosphere.

Jobs to do

Prune & Tidy

- Deadhead spent flowers.
- Fertilise perennials and roses again, and apply a good layer of organic matter around the base of the plants too.
- Feed late flowering tulips, and deadhead those that have finished flowering, leaving the leaves to die back.
- Dig up and divide bluebell clumps that have finished flowering.
- It is time for the "Chelsea chop" to prolong the flowering season of later-flowering perennials. Prune a third of the stems by a third, and another third of the stems by two-thirds. This technique should only be done on perennials that have not yet flowered.
- Remove allium foliage which is looking tatty.
- Prune spring flowering shrubs that have finished flowering.
- Take soft wood cuttings of shrubs.
- Take cuttings from perennials.
- Take cuttings from dahlias started in pots before planting out.
- Aubretia can be cut back now.
- Once the early-flowering clematis have finished they can be pruned to tidy up the plant if needed.

Sow & Plant

- Plant out seedlings once the frosts are over.
- Seedlings sown in the garden should now be thinned out.
- Empty spaces in the borders can be filled by direct sowing some annual seeds.
- Do a second sowing of half-hardy annuals to extend your season.

May Continued

Sow & Plant

- Sow biennials such as honesty, wallflowers, and foxgloves either direct or into pots.
- Take dahlia cuttings now before planting them in the garden.

Lawn Care

- Finish sowing or turfing new lawns before it gets too hot and dry.
- Roll new lawns when they are about 2.5cm tall with the roller on the back of a cylinder mower. This encourages new grass shoots from the base of the plant.
- Newly sown lawns can be mowed when about 5cm tall, gradually shortening the cut over the season.

Ponds

- Feed fish regularly
- Remove blanket and duckweed.
- Thin out excessive growth from aquatic plants and divide any overgrown plants.
- Feed aquatic plants with a specialist food.
- Plant new aquatic plants if needed.

Watering

- Regularly water pots and young plants.
- Start feeding container plants every 2 weeks with liquid seaweed.

Wildlife

- Many species of birds migrate back to their breeding grounds during this month, so you can expect to see a lot of activity at your bird feeders.
- Butterflies and moths will also be very active now. These insects are attracted to flowering plants, so consider planting some native species to provide them with a food source.
- May is a great time to observe nocturnal animals. Install a bat house or owl box in your garden.

Pests

- Monitor for pests such as slugs and vine weevils, and apply biological control measures where necessary.
- Look out for aphids, you can try spraying your plants with a mixture of water and dish soap or introducing natural predators like ladybugs or lacewings.
- Another pest to watch out for in May is the cutworm. These caterpillars can hide in the soil during the day and emerge at night to munch on the stems of your plants. To prevent cutworms, you can try placing a collar made of cardboard around the base of your plants.

May 2025

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May

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in the Garden....

June is a beautiful month in the garden. The flowers are in full bloom, and the air is filled with their sweet fragrance. The roses are especially lovely, with their soft petals and vibrant colours.

It is typically safe to assume that frosty weather is no longer a concern. This is the ideal time to transplant the seedlings grown in the greenhouse. However, it's important to ensure that your plants are well-established and hardened off before being moved outside or they may suffer from cold shock. Make sure to have some horticultural fleece ready in case of a late frost.

Jobs to do

Prune & Tidy

- Regular weeding and deadheading.
- Stake and tie tall plants.
- Divide primroses, primulas, and cowslips.
- Prune back delphiniums to the ground, including leaves and old flower spikes. This will encourage a second flush of flowers.
- Cut back spring flowering perennials such as oriental poppies, to the ground. Feed, mulch, and water to encourage new growth.
- Deadhead roses, and watch for the growth of suckers. Tie in rambling and climbing roses.
- Prune sedums by a third to prevent flopping.
- Prune spring flowering shrubs like Weigela and Philadelphus that have finished flowering.
- Take cuttings of lavender, hydrangeas, fuchsias, pelargoniums, and coleus to propagate.

June Continued

Sow & Plant

- Sow biennials for next year now directly into a seedbed.
- Thin out hardy annuals to 30cm (12in) apart.
- Sow poppies directly into the soil now.
- Fill any gaps in your borders with bedding plants.
- Lift and store spring bulbs from pots, and divide any clumps in the garden that are getting crowded.
- Deadhead flowers.
- Continue the successional plantings of gladioli corms.

Lawns

- Mow regularly.
- Trim the lawn edges.
- Feed the lawn with a liquid fertiliser or a dry pelleted fertiliser if rain is forecast.
- New lawns should be regularly watered well.

Ponds

- Introduce new fish.
- Tender floating plants can now also be introduced to the pond.
- Remove duckweed and blanketweed regularly.

Watering

- Maintain a regular watering schedule of pots and young plants, these will dry out quickly so check them daily.
- Continue feeding container plants every 2 weeks with liquid seaweed.

Greenhouse

- On warm days, open vents and doors, and use blinds or shade paint to prevent overheating. To increase humidity, damp down your greenhouse.
- Regularly check plants for pests or disease, removing dead or diseased leaves.
- Tagetes planted in the greenhouse will help to deter whitefly.

Wildlife

- Continue to provide bird feeders and a water source suitable for birds. Try placing your bird feeders amongst bushy trees or plants where smaller birds can feed easily without feeling too exposed to predators.

Pests

- Be on the lookout for vine weevils, as the larvae will damage plant roots in pots, while the adults feed on the leaves. You can use a biological control method if you notice any signs of beetles or larvae.

June Continued

Pests

- Keep an eye out for woolly aphids on fruit trees, and use soapy water to spray affected areas.
- Lily beetles will be hiding amongst the foliage of your lily plants. You can see their telltale holes eaten in the plants' foliage. Pick them off the plant to dispose of, being careful not to drop them from the leaves as they quickly disappear.

2025 *June*

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June

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July

in the Garden....

The month of July marks a period of flourishing growth and stunning hues. The sunny days and intermittent showers provide the ideal environment for an array of flowers, herbs, and vegetables to thrive. The garden becomes a lively habitat as bees and butterflies flit from one bloom to another, pollinating and adding to the garden's splendour.

Jobs to do

Prune & Tidy

- Divide and replant iris rhizomes every 4-5 years to replenish the stock and maintain its vitality.
- Remove biennials if they are done flowering.
- Trim wisteria by cutting back the long shoots to about 8 inches (20 cm) from the main branch if needed.
- Trim conifer hedges.
- Prune early Spring flowering clematis.
- Feed roses.
- Divide bearded irises.
- Disbud dahlias for larger blooms.

Sow & Plant

- Continue to take cuttings of tender perennials.
- Plant out half-hardy annuals.
- Remove the tip of the main shoots on annual seedlings. This will encourage the plants to become bushier.
- Thin out biennials to give them more space to grow.
- Make your last plantings of gladioli and nerines.
- Take semi-ripe cuttings from shrubs.
- Take cuttings from carnations and pinks.

July Continued

Greenhouse

- On warm days, open vents and doors, and use blinds or shade paint to prevent overheating. To increase humidity, damp down your greenhouse.
- Regularly check plants for pests and diseased leaves.
- Tagetes planted in the greenhouse will help to deter whitefly.

Lawns

- Mow regularly and trim edges.
- Established lawns only need to be watered if it's absolutely necessary, they may turn yellow or brown but they soon become green again once the rain returns.
- Water lawns which have been newly made in the Spring regularly whilst they become established.

Ponds

- Top up the water level if needed in hot weather.
- Monitor fish in still water as they can become desperate for oxygen and may benefit from something like a fountain or spray to keep the water moving.
- Thin oxygenating plants from the pond.

Wildlife

- Many bird species are feeding their fledglings. So keep bird feeders filled with a variety of seeds and ensure there is fresh water for drinking and bathing.
- Provide a shallow dish of water containing stones for butterflies to drink from.
- Hedgehogs are active during the night, foraging for insects, leaving some corners of the garden wild for them to hide in. Avoid using slug pellets which can be harmful to the hedgehogs.

Pests

- Currant and gooseberry bushes should regularly be checked for sawfly larvae (caterpillars), which are small and green. Remove them by hand and dispose of them.
- Check for vine weevils.
- Check for woolly aphids on fruit trees, and use soapy water to spray affected areas.
- Lily beetles will be hiding amongst the foliage of your lily plants. You can see their telltale holes eaten in the plants' foliage. Pick them off the plant to dispose of, being careful not to drop them from the leaves as they very quickly disappear.

July

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August in the Garden....

Behold the garden's charm in August, where life abounds, and flowers bloom in every direction. Take a deep breath and savour the sweet fragrances of roses, lavender, and honeysuckle that fill the air.

Jobs to do

Prune & Tidy

- Once lavender has stopped flowering, trim it back to prevent it from becoming leggy.
- Trim topiary plants.
- Trim hedges.
- After flowering, prune wisteria by removing all the thin side shoots leaving only five leaves from the main stem.
- Prune and tie in rambling roses once they've finished flowering.
- Hoe weeds.

Sow & Plant

- Collect seed pods from plants that you like and want to reseed or share with friends.
- Start sowing hardy annuals for next year now.
- Take cuttings from tender perennials to overwinter in the greenhouse in case you lose these plants in the garden during winter.
- Pinch out chrysanthemum plants to encourage more flowers.
- Keep feeding and deadheading your containers.
- Plant out biennial plants sown earlier in the year so that they have time to settle in before winter.
- Plant hyacinth bulbs for flowering indoors over Christmas.

Lawn Care

- If its hot and dry, mow less frequently and raise the height of the mower.
- Apply an autumn lawn feed high in potash to strengthen grass roots.
- Only water if necessary.

August Continued

Ponds

- Keep ponds topped up with water if hot.
- Thin oxygenating plants.

Wildlife

- Many bird species are feeding their fledglings. You may see young birds exploring the garden, so keep bird feeders filled with various seeds and ensure fresh water for drinking and bathing, particularly on hot days.
- Provide a shallow dish of water containing stones for butterflies to drink from.
- Hedgehogs are active during the night, foraging for insects, leaving some corners of the garden wild for them to hide in.

Pests

- Watch for earwigs on your dahlias. Place an upturned pot filled with straw on a bamboo cane which will attract them overnight. In the morning be sure to go and dispose of them.

2025

August

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



August

Monthly garden review

Keeping Track of Your Garden's Needs

Maintaining your garden is a continuous process that requires attention to detail. Consider keeping a note of things that might need changing or moving, such as plants that clash or overcrowd each other, paths that aren't properly placed, and so on. Additionally, as climate patterns shift, you may find that some plants no longer thrive in your garden and require replacement.

Plants and areas that are doing well:

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Areas to Improve:

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Ways to Make Changes:

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September in the Garden....

September is a beautiful time of year in the garden. The cooler temperatures and shorter days signal the start of autumn, and the garden begins to transition from the bright and bold colours of summer to the rich and warm hues of fall. The air is filled with the sound of rustling leaves and the chatter of migrating birds, making the garden a peaceful and serene place to spend an afternoon. As summer fades away and autumn takes hold, the garden continues to be a haven of beauty and tranquillity.

Jobs to do

Prune & Tidy

- Clear any annuals that have gone over.
- Prune climbing and rambling roses after they have finished flowering but if they produce hips leave these for the birds to eat overwinter.
- Prune evergreen hedges before winter.
- Prune late summer flowering shrubs.
- Continue deadheading and weeding.
- Collect seeds to save.
- Pinch out the growing tips of wallflower plants.
- Collect rose leaves that have fallen and have evidence of blackspot, ideally, burn these. Definitely don't compost them.

Sow & Plant

- Transplant any biennials that need moving to their final positions.
- Keep sowing hardy annuals directly into the garden to ensure early flowers next year.
- Take hardwood cuttings from roses.
- Start to divide herbaceous perennials which you would like to split.
- Sow yellow rattle in wildflower areas, which is crucial to the success of any wildflower patch as it reduces the vigour of certain grasses.
- Plant new perennials, trees, shrubs, and climbers now to settle in before the winter.

September Continued

Sow & Plant

- Plant indoor amaryllis and hyacinth bulbs to force to flower earlier during the winter months.

Lawn Care

- It's time to aerate and scarify the lawn to remove dead thatch so that water, air, and nutrients can reach the grassroots better.
- After scarifying apply an autumn lawn feed if you haven't already done so.
- Aerate the lawn to reduce compaction during winter. Followed by a top dressing of 2 parts sieved garden soil, 2 parts sharp sand, 1 part sieved garden compost. If the lawn is a bit patchy looking you can mix in some lawn seed too.
- Mow less frequently.
- Broad-leaved weeds can be treated with a selective weed killer now. Make sure it is a lawn-specific weedkiller or you will kill the grass off too.
- New lawns can be sown or turf laid now.

Ponds

- Net ponds if possible to stop autumn leaves falling into the pond.
- Repot and divide any congested plants.

Wildlife

- With the colder months, birds will begin returning to bird tables and feeders. It's important to top up their food regularly and check that all the feeders are clean.

Pests

- Keep checking dahlia plants for earwig damage.

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September 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				



September

Monthly garden review

Keeping Track of Your Garden's Needs

Maintaining your garden is a continuous process that requires attention to detail. Consider keeping a note of things that might need changing or moving, such as plants that clash or overcrowd each other, paths that aren't properly placed, and so on. Additionally, as climate patterns shift, you may find that some plants no longer thrive in your garden and require replacement.

Plants and areas that are doing well:

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Areas to Improve:

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Ways to Make Changes:

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October in the Garden....

October can be a beautiful month in the garden, with the changing colours of the leaves and the crisp autumn air. Many plants can thrive in this season, providing a vibrant display of flowers, foliage, and fruit.

One of the most popular plants for this time of year is the chrysanthemum, which comes in a wide range of colours and sizes. They are easy to care for and can provide colour well into November. Another great choice is the Aster, which is known for its delicate, daisy-like flowers in shades of pink, purple, and white.

Jobs to do

Prune & Tidy

- Continue to collect seeds for sowing next year, making sure to store them somewhere dry and.
- If there are early frosts, dig up dahlia and gladiolus bulbs and tubers. Leave the bulbs somewhere to dry for a couple of days before storing them in a box filled with sawdust. Alternatively, mulch your dahlias in late autumn under several inches of compost. You do run the risk though of losing your tubers if they rot.
- Deadhead plants.
- Conifer hedges can be trimmed one last time now.
- Divide and replant overcrowded perennials. Use two garden forks back to back to split larger clumps.
- Remove plant supports and store.
- Prune Buddleia to about half their height, removing suckers growing around the base of the trees too.
- Collect leaves from the lawn and if possible use them to make leaf mould.
- Protect tender plants in containers with fleece or hessian or place them indoors before the first hard frost.
- Apply bark mulch over the crowns of hardy fuchsias to protect them from winter weather.
- Mulch bare soil with homemade compost, leaf mould, or green waste from local councils.

October continued

Sow & Plant

- Sow your sweet pea seeds now to ensure larger, more robust, and earlier flowering plants next spring.
- Plant out the last of the hardy annuals and biennial seedlings.
- Start planting spring bulbs.
- Tulips should however be planted when the temperature has dropped to avoid tulip fire.
- Peonies plant them this month, and prune established plants shortly after the first frost.
- Take hardwood cuttings from shrubs.
- Lift and divide large clumps of crocosmia, and replant into freshly prepared soil.
- Pot up roots of lily of the valley.
- Plant evergreen shrubs and new climbers.

Lawns

- It's time to aerate and scarify the lawn to remove dead thatch so that water, air, and nutrients can reach the grassroots better.
- After scarifying apply an autumn lawn feed if you haven't already done so.
- Aerate the lawn to reduce compaction during winter. Followed by a top dressing of 2 parts sieved garden soil, 2 parts sharp sand, 1 part sieved garden compost. If the lawn is a bit patchy looking you can mix in some lawn seed too.
- Mow less frequently and reduce the height of your lawn mower, so that you only remove the top of the lawn.
- Broad-leaved weeds can be treated with a selective weed killer now. Make sure it is a lawn-specific weedkiller or you will kill the grass off too.
- New lawns can be sown or turf laid now.

Ponds

- Reduce feeding of fish.
- Remove tender floating plants.
- Thin out oxygenating plants.
- Cut back dead foliage from plants in the pond and around the pond margin.
- Remove fallen leaves from the pond.
- Net the pond for winter.
- Remove submersible pumps, water features, and lights before any hard frosts.

October continued

Greenhouse Care

- Remove shading and insulate the greenhouse with bubble wrap or thermal screens to keep plants frost-free.
- Check heaters are working.
- Reduce watering in the greenhouse.
- Open windows only on warm, sunny days and close them at night.

Wildlife

- Check bonfire piles for hibernating hedgehogs or toads.
- Top up bird feeders.

Pests

- Wrap grease bands around the bases of fruit trees to prevent winter moths from damaging next year's crop.
- Remove fallen leaves and dead foliage from around rose plants to prevent fungus from overwintering.

October

2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

October

2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



October

Monthly garden review

Keeping Track of Your Garden's Needs

Maintaining your garden is a continuous process that requires attention to detail. Consider keeping a note of things that might need changing or moving, such as plants that clash or overcrowd each other, paths that aren't properly placed, and so on. Additionally, as climate patterns shift, you may find that some plants no longer thrive in your garden and require replacement.

Plants and areas that are doing well:

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Areas to Improve:

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Ways to Make Changes:

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November in the Garden....

November is a time of transition in the garden. The vibrant blooms of summer have faded away, and the garden is now turning towards a more subdued palette. However, there is still plenty to enjoy in the garden during this month.

Jobs to do

Prune & Tidy

- Prune roses.
- Cut peonies back.
- Tidy borders, and note any changes you would like to make.
- Check newly planted plants.
- Deadhead winter flowering plants in containers and water if needed.
- Remove the last of the fallen leaves from around the base of plants to prevent slugs and snails from overwintering.
- Bring alpines into the greenhouse or cold frame to protect them from the rain.
- Keep plant pots raised to prevent waterlogging.
- Make leaf mould.
- Wrap insulation around water pipes and outdoor taps.
- Check tree ties for tightness and adjust as necessary.
- Clean and store your garden tools.
- Clean and tidy the greenhouse for winter.
- Insulate the greenhouse with bubble wrap and check heaters.

Sow & Plant

- Take root cuttings from perennials such as oriental poppies.
- Plant Paperwhite narcissi for Christmas (by the middle of the month)
- Continue planting indoor hyacinths.
- Check forcing bulbs for roots and shoots. Once they've grown approximately 3cm (1in), bring them inside.
- Check stored summer bulbs for any signs of rot.

November Continued

Sow & Plant

- Divide perennials that flower early in summer, such as oriental poppies, peonies, and lupins, as well as spring-flowering hellebores, pulmonarias, and Solomon's seal. Dig up, divide, and replant straight away. Perennials that flower later are best divided in the spring.

Lawns

- Finish any jobs from October and continue to rake leaves up.

Ponds

- Ensure to remove pumps, features, and lights before the frosts come.
- Continue to remove leaves from the pond.

Wildlife

- Provide bird baths and bird feeders. Leave seed heads on plants to attract birds.
- Check for hibernating wildlife in your bonfire pile.
- Clean out nesting boxes for birds to shelter in during winter.
- Leave some berries on plants, such as holly and rosehips, for wildlife to eat.

Pests

- Apply glue bands or grease bands to the trunks of fruit trees to prevent pests from climbing.
- Clear fallen leaves and dead foliage from the base of plants and pots to prevent pests from overwintering.

2024

November

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

2025
November

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



November

Monthly garden review

Keeping Track of Your Garden's Needs

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Plants and areas that are doing well:

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Areas to Improve:

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Ways to Make Changes:

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December

in the Garden....

As autumn fades and the garden prepares for winter, December is a month of change. Although many of the plants are past their prime, there are still some that can add colour and interest to your garden during this season.

Jobs to do

Prune & Tidy

- Make a seed inventory.
- Check on overwintering bulbs in storage.
- Move forced bulbs to a warmer room to encourage blooming.
- Shake the snow off trees, low hedges, and shrubs to prevent damage.
- Inspect newly planted trees and shrubs for any damage caused by wind or frost.
- Thin-out overcrowded shoots on ornamental vines and prune side shoots to two buds from the main stems that form the framework.
- Stay on top of weeding, as they will continue to grow if the weather is mild.
- Make leaf mould.
- Repair sheds, trellises, and fences, and clean paths.
- Monitor container plants and bulbs carefully. Do not let them dry out. Elevate potted plants off the ground to prevent waterlogging.

Greenhouse

- Clean and store used pots, seed trays, and containers.
- Check greenhouse heaters are working.
- Clean the greenhouse, cold frames, and cloches regularly to allow more light in. On warmer days, you may need to ventilate the greenhouse.

Sow & Plant

- Plant evergreen shrubs.
- Take hardwood cuttings.

December Continued

Wildlife

- Feed birds during colder weather.
- Regularly wash and disinfect bird baths and feeders.

Pests

- Continue cutting back and clearing up leaves so that slugs and snails have no shelter.
- Watch out for greenfly, whitefly, and red spider mite infestations as pests may overwinter on plants.

2024

December

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

2025

December

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



December

Monthly garden review

Keeping Track of Your Garden's Needs

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Areas to Improve:

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Ways to Make Changes:

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Gardening Terms and definitions

- **Annual plant** is a type of plant that completes its entire life cycle from seed to flower and seed production within a single growing season. Annual plants are unique in that they have a limited lifespan and must be replanted each year. They are known for their fast growth and colourful blooms.
- **Hardy annual** is a type of plant that completes its entire life cycle, from seed to flower to seed, within a single growing season. Unlike tender annuals, which are sensitive to cold temperatures and frost, hardy annuals can tolerate a wide range of weather conditions and can often be planted directly in the garden as early as spring. Some examples of common hardy annuals include sunflowers, marigolds, zinnias, and poppies.
- A **biannual plant** is a type of plant that completes its life cycle in two years. During the first year, the plant grows leaves and stems, and in some cases, can produce a small amount of flowers. However, the plant does not produce any fruit or seeds during the first year. Instead, it stores energy in its roots or bulbs to prepare for the following year. In the second year, the plant will use the stored energy to produce flowers, fruits, and seeds. After the plant has completed its life cycle, it will die, and the seeds it produces will grow into new plants.
- A **perennial plant** is a plant that lives for more than two years. Unlike annuals or biennials, perennial plants come back year after year, often growing larger and stronger as they mature. Some common examples of perennial plants include trees, shrubs, and flowers like roses, daisies, and lilies. Perennial plants have several advantages over other types of plants. For one, they require less maintenance, as they don't need to be replanted every year. Additionally, they often have deeper root systems, which allows them to access more nutrients and water from the soil. This can result in stronger, healthier plants that are better able to resist pests and disease.

- Tender perennial plant is a type of plant that is not able to withstand frost or freezing temperatures and will typically die off in colder weather. Unlike annual plants, which complete their lifecycle in one growing season, tender perennials will often survive for multiple years if they are given the proper care and environmental conditions. To ensure the survival of tender perennials, it is important to plant them in a location that provides adequate protection from harsh weather conditions. This may include placing them in a sheltered area or covering them with a protective mulch during the winter months.
- Organic compost is a type of fertilizer that is made from decomposed organic matter, such as leaves, grass clippings, and kitchen scraps. It is a natural and sustainable way to improve the health of your soil and promote healthy plant growth. Composting is the process of breaking down organic matter into a nutrient-rich soil amendment that can be added to your garden or used in potted plants. The process requires the right balance of carbon and nitrogen, as well as oxygen and moisture. There are many benefits to using organic compost in your garden, including improved soil structure, increased water retention, and reduced reliance on chemical fertilizers. Additionally, composting is an easy and inexpensive way to reduce your carbon footprint and reduce waste. By diverting organic waste from landfills, you can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote a more sustainable future.
- Mulch is a layer of material that is applied to the soil surface of a garden or landscape to protect and nourish plants. There are many different types of mulch, including organic and inorganic options. Organic mulches, such as wood chips, leaves, and straw, can improve soil quality by adding nutrients and retaining moisture. They also help to suppress weeds and regulate soil temperature. Inorganic mulches, such as gravel and rocks, are more durable and long-lasting, but they do not provide the same benefits to soil health. When applying mulch, it is important to use the correct amount and to avoid piling it up against the base of plants, which can cause rot and other issues. Mulch should be replenished annually to maintain its effectiveness. Overall, mulch is an important tool for any gardener or landscaper looking to improve the health and appearance of their outdoor spaces.

New Plants and bulbs

Plant/Bulb	Location to be planted	Date Planted	Special requirements



Monthly Weather Recordings

Date	Lowest monthly Temperature	Highest Monthly Temperature	Average Rainfall



Compost Bin Turning

Compost Bin/Bay no.	Date filled	Date turned	Date ready for emptying
Bin 1			
Bin 2			
Bin 3			



Seed Packet Inventory

Seed Packet	Date to be used by	No. of seeds leftover	Buy new



Garden Tools Inventory

Tool	Date checked	Needs sharpening/replacing /fixing	Date Sharpened



Greenhouse Inventory

Item	Date checked	Quantity in Stock	Min Quantity	Used	Restocked

Lawn Care Record

	Date Completed	Date Completed	Date Completed	Date Completed	Date Completed
Scarify					
Aerate					
Apply top dressing					
Autumn/Winter Feed					
Moss Killer					
Spring/Summer Feed					



Greenhouse To Do's

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Plants to be divided and relocated

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Weekend Job List

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Plant Wish List

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Plant Profile

Plant Name:

Planting Date: Planting Location:

Plant Source: Harvest
Date:
Yield:

Care Instructions Growth Progress:

Watering requirement: Diseases & Pests

Sunlight requirement: Diseases noted:

Soil type requirement: Pests noted:

Fertilising requirement: Treatment given:

When to prune:

Notes:

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Plant Profile

Plant Name:

Planting Date: Planting Location:

Plant Source: Harvest
Date:
Yield:

Care Instructions Growth Progress:

Watering requirement: Diseases & Pests

Sunlight requirement: Diseases noted:

Soil type requirement: Pests noted:

Fertilising requirement: Treatment given:

When to prune:

Notes:

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Plant Name:

Planting Date: Planting Location:

Plant Source: Harvest
Date:
Yield:

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When to prune:

Notes:

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Fertilising requirement: Treatment given:

When to prune:

Notes:

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