

JANUARY

Ornamental garden:

- If the ground is waterlogged, then keep off the soil to avoid compaction.
- If snow falls – do not let the snow sit on the shrubs, gently shake off to prevent damage.
- Prune bush or standard apples and pears, aiming to create an open framework of about 5 main branches.
- Take root cuttings from perennials for new growth in time for spring.
- Sweet peas can be sown this month and those sown in the autumn can be potted on. Place them in a sunny greenhouse, cold frame or windowsill.
- Plan annual cut flowers for the borders.
- Mulch borders if not already done in autumn.
- Plant deciduous hedges.
- Move deciduous trees and shrubs if necessary.
- Ensure protective coverings such as fleece/ mulch have remained in place over frost tender plants.
- Avoid walking on turf when the grass is covered with frost or is waterlogged.

Vegetable garden:

- Protect brassicas from pigeons with cloches, netting or fleece.
- Harvest Winter veg such as parsnip, swede, sprouts, leeks and turnip.
- Remove one-third of the oldest stems of blackcurrants at ground level to encourage new basal shoots.
- Plan this year's crop rotation - aim to grow each crop in a different bed to last years to avoid the risk of disease.
- Start chitting seed potatoes.
- Cut back apples and pears by a third to remove any dead or weak growth.

Other jobs:

- Ventilate the greenhouse regularly to avoid moisture build-up.
- Keep bird-feeders and bird baths topped up.
- Clean pots and seed trays.
- Check tree stakes and ties.
- Inspect tools and sharpen secateurs.
- Clean plant labels.
- Check compost bins for excess moisture and turn regularly.
- Organise seed collections and start planning your garden layout for the year ahead.
- Order new seeds to sow.

FEBRUARY

Ornamental Garden:

- In late February, cutback hard (coppice) all coloured stemmed cornus (Dogwood) to within 15cm of the ground. This will maximise the number and quality of coloured stems on display for the the following year.
- Heavy snowfalls – Gently shake off shrubs to prevent damage.

- Prune Roses creating an open outward facing framework.
- Prune clematis (late/summer flowering).
- Re-shape borders with edging iron.
- In late February – cutback deciduous grasses.
- Remove weeds from borders as necessary.
- Prune out dead; diseased or damaged wood from trees and shrubs.
- Complete pruning of Apple/ fruit trees if not already done.
- Mulch borders if not already done in autumn – taking care of emerging bulbs.
- Cut back side shoots of wisteria, pruning to two to three buds.
- Plant new climbers such as clematis / honeysuckle.
- Prune summer flowering deciduous shrubs that flower on the current year's growth – eg buddleja, lavatera.
- Sow hardy annuals for summer colour.
- Start pricking out seedlings that are already growing.
- Prune winter flowering shrubs when the flowers have started to fade

Vegetable Garden:

- Plant seed potatoes and chit tubers by placing them eye end up in trays or egg boxes in a light, cool, frost free place.
- Sow crops like broad beans, lettuce, etc. and place in greenhouses or cold frames for an earlier harvest.
- Keep on top of brassicas maintenance, remove any yellowing leaves to keep it tidy.
- Now's the time if you want to think about planting asparagus – keep weed free and mulch with a thick layer of organic matter.
- Apply general fertilisers including Q4, grow more / blood fish and bone to borders.
- Mulch tree and cane fruit after pruning.
- Finish planting garlic.
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MARCH

Ornamental Garden:

- A general fertiliser could be applied over borders if felt necessary.
- Lightly rake lawn if mild and not waterlogged to remove moss.
- Remove any dead, diseased or damaged growth from trees and shrubs.
- Finish mulching if not done in autumn.
- Put manure/rose feed around all roses and check for dead, diseased or dying shoots.
- Deadhead bulbs regularly.
- Now is a good time to plant: new perennials and summer-flowering bulbs.
- Re-pot or top-dress all containers.
- Weed regularly.
- Edge / define all borders if not done already.
- Plant roses.
- Sow hardy annuals for summer colour.
- Repair damage to lawns if necessary.
- Harden off hardy annuals sown under glass.
- Cut back any remaining growth from herbaceous / grasses leftover from the winter.
- Divide summer-flowering perennials like astrantia, hemorocallis, hosta, coppice dogwoods/willows etc. if not done before now.

Vegetable Garden:

- Prune gooseberries and red and white currants. Remove deadwood and then spur prune all side shoots back to 2 – 3 buds from the base. Shorten branch tips by one quarter.
- Plant shallot and onion sets.
- Harvest the last of the winter crops and compost any un-diseased debris.
- Sow aubergines, cucumbers, tomatoes and chillies in an indoor heated propagator but only if you have a heated glasshouse for growing on seedlings.

APRIL

Ornamental Garden:

- Continue to remove faded flowers on spring bulbs but not the foliage until it is withered.
- Keep borders weed-free.
- Mulch borders if not completed last month.
- If the weather is mild, then trim the weak or straggly growth of sage and rosemary.
- Penstemons – cutback last year's stems down to the new growth – if the weather is very cold delay until the end of the month.
- Check evergreens for any frost damage – lightly prune if necessary.
- Look out for early aphid attacks and treat if necessary. Pests will be active outdoors as the weather gets warmer.
- Sweet peas can be direct sown now to produce plants that flower later than those sown under glass or overwintered plants.
- Prune early flowering shrubs such as forsythia etc.
- To ensure strong growth on roses apply a general fertiliser.
- Plant evergreen trees and shrubs/move existing evergreens if necessary.
- Trim back frost-damaged foliage.
- Plant summer flowering bulbs, corms and tubers including dahlia, gladioli and canna.
- Apply combined weed, feed and moss to lawns.
- Take and pot any hydrangea cuttings.

Vegetable Garden:

- Continue planting potatoes and finish planting onion sets by mid-April.
- Direct sow vegetables such as beetroot, carrots, lettuce, radish, turnip, peas, spinach and parsnip.
- Prune young stone fruit trees such as cherries and plums as leaf buds open.
- Sow tomatoes in preparation for planting outside in the summer.

MAY

Ornamental Garden:

- This month is a fast period of growth. Late frosts may catch early blooms – remove any damaged growth.
- Spray roses with Rose Clear or similar.
- Keep on top of weeding.
- Continue to remove spent flowers of spring bulbs but not the foliage until it has withered and yellowed.
- Chelsea-chop time – If the nepeta and sedums are looking leggy then cutback by a third to encourage compact growth that will not collapse later in the season. This can be

- applied to the lavender, echinops, echinacea, aster, helenium and salvia too if felt necessary.
- Trim rosemary, thyme and sage if not done in April.
- Cutback withered daffodil or tulip stems once they have turned yellow.
- Trim grass edges of borders regularly to keep neat and tidy.
- Prune spring flowering clematis after it has flowered.
- Stake and support herbaceous perennials if necessary.
- If daffodils gave a poor show lift and divide bulbs and replant.
- Continue deadheading spring bulbs.
- Start hardening off tender plants for planting out.
- Plant out dahlias towards the end of the month.
- Protect new plants from hungry slugs and snails.

Vegetable Garden:

- Harvest Asparagus.
- Direct sow French beans and sweet corn if weather is warm enough.
- Start earthing up potatoes.
- Harvest early crops such as radish / lettuce etc.
- Avoid planting tomatoes too early as they suffer if exposed to temperatures below 12°C.
- Sow pumpkins, cucumbers, courgettes, squashes under cover now and outdoors towards the end of the month.
- Lift and divide mint.
- Mulch fruit plants

Other jobs around the garden:

- Feed & mow established lawns.
- Apply treatment to weeds within lawns.
- Keep on top of weeds by regularly hoeing ground.
- Keep the garden tidy and free of debris.
- Keep on top of watering - if the weather is warm make sure to do this daily to ensure the ground isn't dry

JUNE

Ornamental Garden:

- Lightly trim box balls.
- Deadheading – salvia's as the flower heads go over, penstemons, roses etc.
- Consider spraying any plants infected with aphids or black fly with SB Plant Invigorator.
- Keep on top of weeding.
- Prune early flowering clematis.
- Cut back foliage of tulips.
- Trim other shrubs to shape as necessary.
- Plant warm-season grasses such as penisetum and panicum.
- Treat bindweed/ground elder and other invasive weeds growing among other plants by applying a glyphosate-based weed killer to their leaves.
- Prune ornamental cherries after their flowers have faded.
- There is still time to sow quick germinating annuals such as cosmos.
- Sow winter bedding such as violas etc.
- Cut back oriental poppies/pulmonaria etc after they have flowered. Remove all leaf as well to allow for fresh leaves to sprout.
- Fill in any gaps in beds or borders with some hardy annuals.

- Keep on top of deadheading.
- Remove reverted shoots from variegated shrubs etc.

Vegetable Garden:

- Direct sow carrots for autumn and winter harvest.
- Sow Florence fennel and chicory.
- Plant out leeks once they are pencil thick.
- Mulch strawberries with matting or straw.
- Water potatoes for good-sized tubers.
- Feed tomatoes regularly.

Other Jobs Around The Garden:

- Keep on top of established lawn by mowing, feeding and weeding regularly.
- Plant hanging baskets.
- Ventilate greenhouses.
- Keep on top of weeding by regularly hoeing ground.
- Make sure to keep watering plants thoroughly during warm weather spells.

JULY

Ornamental Garden:

- Continue to deadhead herbaceous perennials and roses as flowers go over.
- Continue weeding.
- Continue to edge borders.
- Cutback oriental poppies once flowered.
- Divide bearded irises of flowering is declining – replant the youngest rhizomes.
- Cut flowers to encourage more blooms for longer.
- Trim evergreen hedges.
- Plant autumn flowering bulbs.
- Cut back spent flowers of climbing hydrangea.
- Feed dahlias/cannas etc.
- Take cuttings of clematis.
- Sow biennials.
- Support climbing and herbaceous plants to stop them from flopping over.

Vegetable Garden:

- Harvest garlic planted last year.
- Harvest onions once the leaves start to flop over.
- Sow spring cabbages and plant out winter cabbages.
- Water courgettes to encourage a good crop.
- Finish up planting winter brassicas.
- Water fruit trees/bushes.

Other Garden Jobs

- Continue to mow lawns.
- Apply fertiliser to lawns for a nutrient boost.
- Continue watering plants regularly, particularly during hot spells
- Keep an eye on potential plant diseases and pests.

AUGUST

Ornamental garden:

- Continue to deadhead, especially dahlias which should be looking great by now.
- Weed – shouldn't be too much of this but its best to keep on top of it.

- Keep the lawn mown and edges cut – raise the height of the cut in dry weather.
- Trim hedges – now the birds have finished nesting, it's time to get your hedges back in order
- Water – Especially container grown plants as these will require more regular watering.
- If you have any meadow areas, these should be cut and the hay raked asap.
- Spray and feed roses.
- Plant out autumn flowering bulbs eg colchicum.
- Remove lavender stalks and trim bush leaving some green fresh foliage.
- Order spring-flowering bulbs.
- Ensure camellias have sufficient water to ensure flowers for next year.
- Clip evergreen shrubs.
- Collect any seeds or seed pods from existing plants.
- Prune current seasons growth of wisteria back to 5-6 leaves.
- Mow summer flowering meadows.

Vegetable Garden:

- Harvest garlic and lift onions.
- Sow oriental greens such as mizuna and mibuna, pak choy etc.
- Harvest apples and pears.
- Plant new strawberry plants.
- Start lifting main crop potatoes.
- Summer prune trained fruit such as espalier apples, pears etc.
- Trim non-flowering stems of grapes cutting back to one leaf from the main branch.

Other Garden Jobs:

- Keep birdbaths topped up.
- Keep an eye out for garden pests and diseases.
- Give lawns a feed.

SEPTEMBER

Ornamental Garden:

- Continue to deadhead.
- Begin to clear leaves as necessary.
- Keep borders clear of weeds.
- Take cuttings of tender perennials.
- Continue to deadhead bedding plants.
- Plan for next year's garden displays.
- Collect seed from perennials / hardy annuals.
- Start planting spring bulbs.
- Lift and divide herbaceous perennials.
- Start planting trees and shrubs towards the end of the month and move evergreen shrubs etc. while the soil is still warm.
- Prune lavender.
- Collect and get rid of any infected rose leaves.

Vegetable Garden:

- Once the tassels on sweet corn have turned brown check whether the cobs are ready to harvest.
- Leave marrows, squashes, pumpkins etc. to ripen on the plant. Place fruit on a wooden board to prevent soiling.
- Plant autumn onion sets.
- Lift onions and shallots and allow to dry out.
- Prune fruit trees.
- Continue harvesting fruit.
- Harvest maincrop potatoes.

- Sow winter greens such as land cress, mustard spinach, corn salad and hardy lettuce cultivars.

Other Garden Jobs

- Empty and tidy up the greenhouse.
- Rake, aerate and feed lawns. If the lawn is showing signs of wear sow grass seed.
- Make your own compost heap with plant debris.

OCTOBER

Ornamental Garden:

- Mulch borders with compost if not done in the spring.
- Continue deadheading if weather is mild.
- Remove fallen leaves from roses to prevent blackspot.
- Continue to tidy borders of weeds and leaves.
- Transplant any plants that need to be moved.
- Plant spring bulbs such as daffodils etc. But not tulips – wait until November to avoid tulip blight.
- Lift and divide perennials.
- Plant up containers etc. for winter bedding displays.
- Now is a good time to plant trees and shrubs while the soil is moist and warm.
- Sow sweet peas under glass.
- Can lift summer flowering bulbs/tubers and overwinter in the greenhouse or can heavily mulch plants and leave in the ground. E.g. gladioli, dahlia, canna.
- Cut back herbaceous perennials as they die back.
- Prune climbing roses to avoid wind rock.

Vegetable Garden:

- Begin planting garlic.
- Apply fleece to late season crops when frost is forecast.
- Lift and divide rhubarb.
- Clear away old foliage of strawberries to prevent pest and diseases.
- Pot up herbs and place in a frost-free greenhouse to continue cropping through the winter.
- Complete planting onion setts and plant out spring cabbage.
- Harvest squash and pumpkin if not already done so.

Other Garden Jobs:

- Refill bird feeders regularly.
- Install insect hotels/log piles.
- Apply autumn lawn feed.
- Add garden waste to your compost heap.

NOVEMBER

Ornamental garden:

- Part prune roses to prevent wind rock.
- Continue to tidy borders if weather permits.
- Final cut for lawns if no frosts.
- Rake and remove fallen leaves.
- Cutback spent foliage and flowers of herbaceous perennials.
- Leave the seed heads of grasses like Miscanthus to provide winter structure.
- Continue to lay turf for new lawns – avoid frosty days if possible.
- Remove surplus dead leaves from ponds.

- Complete planting of bulbs.
- Mulch borders – especially borderline hardy perennials.
- Plant bare-root shrubs and roses.
- Plant amaryllis or paper-white daffodil bulbs for blooms in time for Christmas.
- Plant winter flowering shrubs like daphne and sarcococca.
- Take hardwood cuttings of roses and other deciduous shrubs.
- Scarify lawns.
- Keep off lawns in wet and frosty weather.

Vegetable garden:

- Begin winter pruning of fruit trees.
- Plant fruit trees, soft fruit and cane fruit.
- Plant garlic cloves.
- Apply grease bands around trunks of fruit trees to protect them from the winter months.
- Apply a good layer of compost/manure to bare areas of ground.
- Protect salad plants under cloches/ fleece etc.
- Clear spent old plants.

Always check for hibernating creatures before starting any bonfires!

DECEMBER

Ornamental garden:

- Keep borders tidy by removing any debris, leaves etc.
- Check newly planted shrubs for wind rock (loosened soil around the base) after strong winds.
- Prune woody ornamental plants but avoid when frost or snow is forecast.
- Mulch if the weather is still mild.
- Shake off snow from hedges and shrubs to avoid damage.

Vegetable garden:

- Harvest winter veg like sprouts and parsnips etc.
- Prune free-standing apples, pears, currants and gooseberries.
- Prune grapevines by mid-December.
- Do not prune stone fruit until spring to avoid silver leaf disease.
- Continue to plant fruit bushes if weather and soil conditions permit.
- Divide and re-plant rhubarb.

Other jobs:

- Insulate outdoor taps and pipes to avoid them freezing.
- Ventilate the greenhouse on mild days.
- Protect plants and pots likely to be affected by frost damage.
- Hang fat balls and ensure bird-feeders are well stocked.
- Make sure compost bins/heaps are covered to prevent them from becoming soggy.
- Turn compost bins to ensure full decomposition.
- Ensure houseplants are getting enough light indoors by placing them on a sunny window sill.
- Keep clearing remaining plant debris and leaves.