



What does the month bring?

Traditionally the coldest month of the year, this is the ideal time to plan, make some resolutions about what you want to plant in the coming months and do a little essential garden maintenance.

Top 10 January Tasks

1 Make the most of fine days by clearing any debris onto your compost heap and have a quick walk round to check plants have not come loose with the wind and that stakes are firm in the ground.

2 Brush any snow off evergreens, trees and shrubs as the extra weight can cause damage to the branches.

3 If you have a greenhouse, this is an ideal time to give a good clean inside and out to get rid of pests or diseases, and then you can get a head start on growing.



4 Sweet Peas can be started in heated propagators or on warm window ledges, and once germinated can be transported to greenhouses and cold frames. Other hardy flower varieties that are slow growers can also be started such as Lobelias and Begonias.



5 Keep your bird table or feeders well stocked as most of the berries are now gone from the garden.

6 As long as the ground is not frozen, plant out bare rooted or pot grown roses.

7 Keep a regular check on newly planted shrubs and roses.

8 Take root cuttings from perennials.



9 Aerate lawns.



10 Keep container plants protected from frost.

Grow your own fruit and vegetables:

- Early salad crops and vegetables can be sown under a gentle heat and moved to the greenhouse once germinated – such as lettuce, radish, spring onions, leeks, broad beans, strawberries and onions.
- Spray fruit trees and soft fruit to kill off any insects that have been living in the bark over winter. Fruit such as apples, pears, currants and gooseberries can be pruned.
- Early Rhubarb can be forced.
- Chit early potatoes





What does the month bring?

Even though weather can be mild or still very cold and frosty, the first signs of spring should be starting to appear.

Top 10 February Tasks



Plant any bare root bushes, hedges and trees.

Prune trees and summer clematis and cut back overgrown shrubs.

2

Sow annual flower seeds such as Impatiens (Busy Lizzie), Cosmos, Petunia undercover.

3

Replace the top inch of containers with new compost.

4

Plant Summer Flowering Bulbs.

5



Replant any tired houseplants.

6

Mulch beds and Borders with old compost to help prevent weeds and help the soil retain moisture.

7

Plant primulas or ready grown spring bulbs on days that are not frosty to add some much needed colour.

8



Potted bulbs can be brought inside to encourage to flower early and once past their best, transferred into the ground ready for next year.

9

Propagate new plants from cuttings such as Buddleia, Spirea and Honeysuckle.

10



Grow your own fruit and vegetables:

- Prune autumn fruiting raspberry canes back to ground level to ensure a good crop and apply general fertiliser to fruit trees and bushes.
- Plant any bare root fruit
- Early crops of peas, broad beans, shallots and parsnips can be sown in the ground.
- Sow vegetable seeds such as early carrots, lettuce and broccoli.
- Sow peppers, chillies, aubergines and tomatoes indoors or under heat
- An ideal time to get potatoes started – put into a shallow box in a position that is light and free from frost to encourage shoots before planting next month.



What does it mean?

“Heat”

Gentle heat can be provided by an electric propagator, or simply a warm kitchen windowsill. Germination will be very fast with a heated propagator – be careful to remove the seedlings as soon as possible to avoid them stretching.

Pots and trays placed on windowsill can produce strong steady seedlings.





What does the month bring?

With longer days and warmer days should come bursts of colour from spring flowers. March can be a busy month of sowing and pruning in the fresh air. Daffodils should be starting to appear everywhere you look as they grow almost anywhere.

Top 10 March Tasks



1 Plant summer flowering bulbs such as lilies, dahlias, begonias and gladioli. Use a warm greenhouse to give them a good start before moving outside.

2 Spring Bulbs should be well established now. If you have clumps of product, divide up when the leaves die back, and dead head to ensure the energy is conserved for next year.

3 Ideal time to prune bushes and shrubs to encourage new growth. Prune roses to within four or five buds from the base and 2-3 buds of side growth, removing dead and damaged stems.

4 To help flowering, divide herbaceous perennials and replant the healthiest parts into refreshed soil.

5 Planting from seed can get well underway in the greenhouse for summer bedding plants such as petunias, marigolds, impatiens, and begonias.



6 Keep an eye out for pests such as snails, slugs and greenfly.

7 Plant or buy spring containers.

8 Move deciduous trees and shrubs and continue planting bare root trees.



9 Start to regularly mow the lawn, remove weeds and reseed if necessary.

10 Check and set up water butts.



Grow your own fruit and vegetables:

- Prepare the ground for sowing by removing weeds and applying a general fertiliser.
- Tomatoes, cucumber, peppers and aubergines should be on their way
- Beetroot, leeks, broad beans, lettuce, cabbage, peas, sprouts and radishes can be planted into the ground. Use a cold frame to help protect.
- Plant potatoes that have been chatted and showing shoots
- Plant onions and shallots
- Feed tree fruit and soft fruit bushes.
- Cover established early crop strawberries.



What does it mean?

"Plant now"

Even though packets may say sow from March, be guided by the weather and soil conditions rather than the month. Plants will soon make up for lost time when the soil and air temperatures start to rise. Waterlogged soil can just lead to rotting seeds.





What does the month bring?

Watch out for April showers, but even though the weather can still be unpredictable, most bulbs and fruit trees are now in full blossom.

Top 10 April Tasks



Remove all faded flowers, let daffodils die back to conserve the energy for next year which will produce a better display.

Continue to prune roses and shrubs.

2

Plant biennials such as pansies, violas, sweet Williams and sweet peas.

3

Continue to control weeds.

4

Stake tall plants to prevent damage from wind.

5



Maintain spring pots by dead heading to encourage more flowers and keep compost in pots moist.

6

Treat lawns for moss and fertilise regularly.

7

Tie in new shoots of climbers.

8



Feed trees and shrubs.

9

Plant rockery plants and cottage garden favourites such as rhododendrons, broom, camellia, spireas and azaleas.

10

Grow your own fruit and vegetables:

- Plant shallots, garlic, onions and asparagus.
- Sow peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers, aubergines, salads, courgettes and celery in greenhouses.
- Plant second early and main crop potatoes
- Sow outdoor vegetables such as broccoli and cabbage.
- Harvest spring onions and rhubarb.
- Regularly weed the fruit and vegetable patch.





What does the month bring?

Summer is nearly here with longer days, first crops to harvest and plenty of colour and growth all around the garden. But also plenty of pests – so watch out.

Top 10 May Tasks



Finish sowing hardy annual flowers outside.

Trim alpines to keep plants tidy.

2

Continue sowing bedding plugs and seeds in greenhouses.

3

Plant up hanging baskets.

4

Plant bedding plants into pots and borders.

5



Leave clematis to wander where they will and trim back only where necessary – keep the roots moist and in sun or partial shade.

6

Admire the trees and shrubs that are now in full flower such as rhododendrons, choisya, lilacs, azaleas, wisteria, broom, crab apples, and pieris.

7

Plant out sweet peas.

8



Finish planting shrubs, trim and feed bushes and shrubs.

9

Clear out and compost spring bedding.

10



Grow your own fruit and vegetables:

- Even though weather is warmer, keep an eye on dipping temperatures and insulate cold frames, greenhouses and vegetable patches where necessary with sheets of bubble polythene or newspapers overnight.
- Sow outside French beans, beetroot, sprouting broccoli, Brussels, cabbage, lettuce, peas, radishes, spinach, swede, sweetcorn and turnips.
- Cover strawberries with netting to protect from birds. Protect other fruit bushes from bird damage.
- Earth up potatoes and harvest early crops of beetroot, onions and radishes.
- Continue sowing salad crops little and often to ensure full supply throughout the summer months.
- Help pollinate tomatoes in the greenhouse by occasionally tapping the flowers.
- Prune gooseberries.
- Purchase and plant up ready grown vegetables and fruits – there's no reason not to have a go at grow your own.





What does the month bring?

Time to enjoy the fruits of your labour!
Sit back and enjoy.

Top 10 June Tasks



Plant out all summer bedding

Plant up all containers

2

Plant up hanging baskets

3

Lift and divide spring flowering perennials such as primroses and aubrietia.

4

Stake tall flowers and climbers to prevent wind damage.

5



Apply fertiliser to roses to encourage growth.

6

Remove dead foliage and flowers.

7

Prepare for the next seasons by sowing winter bedding plants.

8



Continue to maintain the lawn

9

Sit back and enjoy your hard work!

10



Grow your own fruit and vegetables:

- Harvest vegetables and fruits as they become ready.
- Keep all well watered.
- Continue to sow salad crops to ensure supply.
- Firm in brussel sprouts and autumn/winter cabbages to their final positions and keep well watered.
- Plant out courgettes.



What does it mean?

"Caring for hanging baskets"

Watering

- Baskets can dry out quickly as they contain thirsty plants and relatively little compost.
- Watering retaining crystals can help keep moisture locked in.
- Baskets need watered once per day in warm weather and twice in hot.
- Water early morning or evening to avoid evaporation or scorching of leaves.
- If the basket is light, it needs water.
- Drench with water – there is little chance of overwatering as excess will run out.
- If basket has dried out, immerse in water for an hour to help the water be absorbed.

Feeding

- Slow release fertiliser works best to keep the baskets fed.
- The nutrients in normal multi purpose compost will be used up within 4-6 weeks, so continue to feed throughout the season.

Dead Heading

- This promotes continual flowering of the plants as plants produce flowers to produce seeds – once the seeds have been produced, the plant thinks that its job is done and therefore will stop flowering.





What does the month bring?

Enjoy your beautiful surroundings.

Top 10 July Tasks



Finish planting beds and borders with more established plants that will give instant colour.

Keep on top of weeds.

2

Ensure regular good watering of all containers, beds and borders.

3

Remove faded flowers to encourage more growth

4

Sow biennial seeds for next year such as violas and sweet Williams.

5



Prune summer flowering shrubs.

6

Fertilise rhododendrons, camellias and azaleas

7

Spray roses for mildew

8



Keep maintaining and feeding the lawn.

9

Keep an eye on pests.

10



Grow your own fruit and vegetables:

- Harvest fruits such as strawberries, raspberries, currants and cherries
- Keep all well watered.
- Thin out apples, pear and plums to ensure no overcrowding – this will promote better growth later in the season.
- Increase feeding and watering of tomatoes.
- Lift new potatoes.
- Clear crops that have come to an end.





What does the month bring?

Keep on top of routine chores such as watering and pruning.

Top 10 August Tasks



1 Dead head.

2 Stake and trim climbers and tall plants.

3 Continue to remove weeds.

4 Ensure regular watering.

5 Ensure regular feeding.



6 If you are on holiday and no one can water your plants, place containers into a more shaded position.

7 Ventilate greenhouses well and increase humidity by dampening the floor every morning.

8 Take cuttings from summer perennials as these will grow sturdy roots now for over winter.



9 Care for lawns and don't over mow.

10 Prune late flowering shrubs and wisteria.



Grow your own fruit and vegetables:

- Harvest vegetables such as runner beans, courgettes, sweetcorn, potatoes, onions, salad.
- Regularly feed tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers.
- Cut out canes of raspberries that bore fruit and tie in new young canes. Remove the weakest to encourage stronger growth.
- Remove any rotted fruits from trees to prevent a spread.
- Tie in new growth of berry fruits.
- Continue to water well.
- Propagate new strawberry plants by selecting runners.



What does it mean?

"Weeds"

Weeds can encourage the spread of pests and diseases and harbour insects. They are harmful to your garden as they steal vital water and nutrients from your plants. Remove before they can take hold, and hoe between flowers and vegetables to prevent seeding.





What does the month bring?

Hopefully still plenty of sunny days despite shortening days and decreasing warmth, however the enjoyment of the changing colours can still be enjoyed whilst performing the necessary chores.

Top 10 September Tasks



Tidy up spent vegetable and flowers and remove general debris from the garden.

Dead head roses to encourage Autumnal blooms.

2

Plant containerised trees.

3

Add some autumn flowering plants to beds and borders.

4

Plant Autumn bedding such as pansies, cyclamen and pots and containers.

5



Replant summer baskets.

6

Finish taking cuttings.

7

Aerate lawns.

8



Start to plant spring flowering bulbs.

9

Trim evergreen hedges and lavender for the last time this season.

10



Grow your own fruit and vegetables:

- Continue to harvest vegetables.
- Dig up potatoes, allow to dry and the skins to set, and store in a cool dry frost free place to allow tubers to breathe without rotting – a hessian bag is ideal.
- Once onion foliage has dropped, lift the bulbs, leave on the surface for a few days to dry before storing.
- Sow winter lettuce
- Harvest early fruits





What does the month bring?

Beautiful colours of turning leaves and late perennials flowering gives an ideal setting to plan for the spring as the shorter nights set in.

Top 10 October Tasks



Weed now to prevent issues over winter.

1 New shrubs and perennials can be planted now to put down roots before the colder weather sets in.

2

3 Discard any summer bedding and potted plants and baskets. Replant with pansies and structural plants such as grasses, heathers and conifers.

3

4 Continue planting spring flowering bulbs such as daffodils, hyacinths, irises.

4

5 Lift summer bulbs and store for the winter.

5



6 Clean out the greenhouse and insulate if planning to use over winter.

6

7 Create a composting area for all of the dead leaves and waste produced in autumn.

7

8 Keep house plants drier for winter.

8



9 Clear all debris.

9

10 Take hardwood cuttings.

10

Grow your own fruit and vegetables:

- Finish picking tomatoes, carrots and late fruits.
- Enjoy winter vegetables that should now be in their prime.
- Create cuttings of herbs or bring inside to window ledges to prolong the enjoyment of the season.
- Lift and divide rhubarb.





What does the month bring?

Time to be clearing up ready for winter and watching out for frost as the short days and long nights set in.

Top 10 November Tasks



Continue to sweep up leaves, build up compost and aerate lawns.

1 Dig over ground that you plan to use come the spring to allow winter frosts to break down the soil.

2

3 Plant any deciduous trees and shrubs – ideal time for bare rooted plants.

3

4 Finish planting any spring flowering bulbs before the weather deteriorates.

4

5 Ventilate greenhouses and check all is ready for spring to prevent mildew and diseases.

5



6 Plant out new roses and prune established ones.

6

7 Move any young plants that you want to relocate in the garden.

7

8 Raise outdoor pots on feet to prevent water logging over the winter.

8



9 Tidy hedges and prune trees.

9

10 Remove any dead or damaged foliage.

10

Grow your own fruit and vegetables:

- Dig over any unplanted areas of vegetable plots in preparation for spring.
- Take hardwood cuttings of soft fruit.
- Sow windowsill crops such as herbs and salad leaves.





What does the month bring?

Start planning for the following year whilst taking advantage of milder days where you can keep on top of tasks.

Top 10 December Tasks



Protect tender plants from the winter weather.

Move tubs and containers to sheltered areas of the garden.

2

Check the greenhouse heater is working.

3

Prune bushes and wisteria.

4

If buying a fresh Christmas tree, cut an inch off the base trunk and stand outside in a deep bucket of water for at least 24 hours before bringing into the house. Find a cool spot, away from radiators ideally and keep in a reservoir of water.

5



Look out for house plants that can add colour and foliage to your home, but water sparingly.

6

Care for Poinsettias by keeping away from draughts, water little and often, do not allow them to have big variations in temperature but give them a sunny spot to sit in.

7

Plant Amaryllis.

8



Finish planting bare root roses, hedges and trees.

9

Continue to keep on top of garden debris.

10



Grow your own fruit and vegetables:

- Prune fruit bushes.
- Spray fruit trees.

