



Gardening Jobs in January

- If it's not too wet or frozen underfoot and you are feeling energetic then finish preparing new beds for next season. Applying compost or manure will help improve soil structure and nutrient levels. The winter frosts will break down the manure and it can be dug over in spring.
- You can still plant shrubs and trees if the weather permits – don't chance it if it's very dry, too wet or frosty! It's a good time to plant bare-rooted hedging plants.
- Plant winter displays of heathers, pansies and dwarf conifers to brighten things up after Christmas.
- If you plan to increase the amount of fruit and vegetables that you grow then now is good time to build new raised beds so that the soil can settle before planting in March.
- Start chitting first early potatoes from the end of the month ready for planting in February.
- Prune established blackcurrant bushes by cutting back about one third of the old stems back to ground level.
- "Force" rhubarb to produce delicious tender pink stems in spring. Clear away the old leaves and cover with a terracotta rhubarb "forcer" (or a large pot or old dustbin) as soon as new growth appears.
- Last chance to prune grape vines before the sap starts to rise.
- Prune trained apple and pear trees such as cordons and espaliers by cutting back last year's shoots to about 5cm. Larger trees should have old and unproductive shoots trimmed. Mulch around the trees.
- Remove last year's leaves from hellebores as the flowers start to emerge. This will help show off the flowers and help avert disease problems.
- Keep an area in pools and ponds ice-free to stop the build-up of gases that could harm wildlife. Never smash the ice. Melt it by standing a pan of boiling water on it.
- Knock any snow off tree branches so that they don't snap under the weight.
- Make sure the garden birds have plenty of food and fresh water. Put up nest boxes ready for spring.
- Sow sweet pea seeds – they don't need a high temperature to germinate so they will be fine in an un-heated greenhouse or spare room.
- Summer flowering bulbs will be in stock during January so shop early to get the best choice.

This information is intended for guidance purposes only. We are happy to give help and advice on most gardening topics at the garden centre.

Eggesford Garden & Country Centre Ltd
Eggesford, Chulmleigh, Devon, EX18 7QU
01769 580250

www.eggesfordgardens.com