



Gardening Jobs in October

- Finish picking your tomatoes – cut off stems bearing green fruit and hang them upside down in the greenhouse to ripen or make green tomato chutney. The plants should be thrown away before they become diseased.
- Harvest root crops and potatoes – make sure they are clean and dry before storing in hessian or brown paper sacks.
- Bring some pots of herbs such as mint and chives into the greenhouse so that you will have some to pick over winter – divide them and re-pot if they are congested.
- October is a great month to plant fruit trees and bushes. Start by preparing the ground by digging over and adding some organic matter such as home-made compost or well rotted manure. Dig in some coarse grit if your soil is heavy.
- Now is a good time to take hardwood cuttings from many shrubs and trees such as gooseberry, blackcurrant, holly, dogwood, willow and honeysuckle.
- Empty out your baskets and containers and plant up with autumn bedding – it's all in stock now! Under-plant bedding such as pansies and primulas with spring flowering bulbs such as narcissi, iris and tulips ready for a lovely display in spring. Add some evergreen plants such as miniature conifers or euonymus for structure. We are happy to plant up tubs and containers for you.
- The bulb planting season is well under way – plant spring flowering bulbs now for good show next year.
- If you want to move any shrubs then now is a good time to do it. Make sure that you are well prepared as a large shrub with its root-ball will be very heavy. Prepare the new hole well, adding lots of organic matter and some fertiliser and water well after re-planting.
- Renew writing on plant labels that are starting to fade – it will only get more faded over winter.
- The soil is still warm and plants can get established before winter so make sure you take advantage of “nature's planting time” and add some new trees and shrubs in to your garden.
- It's important to clear fallen leaves from the garden as they can make a slippery mess on paths, block up drains and gutters and harbour fungi spores and disease if left to rot on the lawn or border. However, they do make a great soil improver for the garden. Leaves don't break down well in the compost heap so collect them up and put them in black bin-bags. Wet them down and punch a few holes in the bags with a fork. Leave them in a pile in quiet corner for at least 12 months and you will have fantastic leaf mould.
- Is your greenhouse ready for winter? Have you checked that your heater works? The winter frosts will soon be upon us so line your greenhouse with bubble-wrap to improve insulation and make sure that your heater (electric or paraffin) is ready to go.
- Check plants in pots and containers for signs of the dreaded vine weevil – especially if you are moving plants into the greenhouse.
- Stop watering tuberous begonias and allow the tops to die off. Then remove the tubers from the compost and store in a cool, dry place.
- Make sure that you have protection ready for any tender plants as we are sure to get frost in October. Use fleece, straw, mulch, cloches, old net curtains or whatever else is appropriate.
- If you haven't already done then there is still time to apply autumn lawn food to the grass.

- Make sure the garden birds have plenty of food and fresh water.

In the Pond:

- Put netting over the pond to prevent falling leaves from getting in the water and rotting.
- Take the pump out, clean the filters and put it away for the winter.

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