



Gardening Jobs in September

- Harvest fruit and vegetables – there should be plenty to pick now. Courgettes, runner beans, French beans and tomatoes will all spoil if not picked. Sweet corn should be picked when the “silks” turn brown. Lift onions and allow them to dry before storing. Some early ripening apples will be ready now – they won’t keep so eat them as soon as possible.
- If it’s not too late you may want to net blackberries and autumn raspberries to protect them from the birds.
- If you haven’t already done so, cut the canes of summer fruiting raspberries that fruited this year back to just above ground level.
- Before the leaves start to fall it’s a good idea to stand back and have a look at what worked well in the garden and what didn’t go as planned. Autumn is a good time to move plants around in the garden. Larger pruning / removal jobs can be left a little longer but when they have lost their leaves it’s easy to forget what trees and shrubs look like.
- September is a great month for planting new trees, plants and shrubs – the plant benches at the garden centre are full of lovely new stock and there are new plants coming in very week. Let us know if you are looking for a specific plant and we will try and order it for you.
- If summer bedding has taken a battering in the last few weeks and looks past its best then it may be time for a change. Some tender plants such as fuchsias can be over-wintered but why not empty out your baskets and containers and plant up with autumn bedding – it’s all in stock now! If you under-plant autumn bedding (pansies and primulas etc) with spring flowering bulbs (e.g. as narcissi, iris and tulips) you will have a lovely display in spring. We are happy to plant up tubs and containers
- “Prepared” hyacinths should be planted before 25th September to make sure they are in flower at Christmas. They are available now at the garden centre.
- If you want early sweet peas then September is the best time to sow them.
- Spring bulbs are in stock now – most bulbs such as narcissi, daffodils, iris, crocus etc can be planted from September onwards. Tulips are best planted from the end of October into November.
- Tidy up your herbaceous perennials as they finish flowering. Most can be cut back down to ground level but make sure you mark the spot so you don’t forget where they are! Why not leave a few tall flower spikes as “skeletons” for winter interest and homes for beneficial insects. Collect seeds from any plants that you want to grow next year – use a brown paper bag and store them in a cool, dark place. September is a good time to divide established perennials but don’t do it if it has been very wet as this can cause them to rot off.
- Check whether any of the new plants that you put in this year need special care over winter – do this now before the first frosts.
- Get the greenhouse ready for winter. Remove shading to ensure maximum light levels, give windows and benching a good clean with a suitable agent such as armillatox or jeyes fluid (follow the instructions on the tin). Once your toms and cucumbers etc have finished you could use a sulphur candle to fumigate your greenhouse, especially if you have suffered with pests and diseases (again follow the instructions). Finally, line the greenhouse with bubble-wrap to insulate and check your greenhouse heater is working.
- Remove bugs from house / conservatory plants that have been on the patio over summer and bring them back into the house to acclimatise before the heating goes on.

- Give hedges a final trim but don't feed them as this will encourage soft growth which will be vulnerable to frost.
- Roses: Remove and burn any leaves that have been affected by black spot. Dead head and cut back any long stems. Tie in rambler and climbing roses that have got out of control to make sure they are secure before winter.
- Give the lawn a treat before winter: First step is to scarify to get rid of moss and thatch – use a scarifier or a sprung tine rake. Then aerate with a fork or hollow tine aerator to improve drainage. Apply a top dressing to level out the dips and hollows and fill in the aeration holes. Follow up with an application of autumn lawn food – don't be tempted to use spring/summer lawn food as this will encourage top growth which is undesirable at this time of year – autumn lawn food will develop strong roots .
- In the Pond:
- Put netting over the pond to prevent falling leaves from getting in the water and rotting.
- Thin out oxygenating weed if it has become congested; leave it at the side of the pond for a few days for the water dwellers to find their way back home. Remove dead foliage from lilies.

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

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