



Annual Gardening Planner

January

Re-shape lawn edges.

Prune apple and pear trees.

Dig over beds.

Cut back ornamental vines, ivy, Virginia creeper.

Check tree stakes and ties.

February

Sow parsnips, leeks and early carrots. Keep planting shallots.

Prune many summer flowering clematis.

Prune winter flowering shrubs once they turn, and as a general rule prune summer flowering shrubs which flower on this season's wood.

Prune wisteria to the first two or three buds.

Plant new shrubs if not too frosty.

Plant summer flowering bulbs.

Cut back previous year's growth of perennials.

Prune roses as per type – Often just above the old wood. Hybrid Tea's and Floribundas cut down by ½ to ¾. Climbers – take out weak/damaged or dead stems, but otherwise tie the stems in and trim to a nice shape.

March

Sow carrots, lettuce, and radish.

Sow asparagus but don't harvest for two years.

Sow brussels sprouts under fleecing.

Plant onions and hardy potatoes.

Start mowing mid march, and scarify/treat if necessary. Grass seeding can start. Turfing can be done all year round.

Apply a thick layer of mulch to beds if desired – Well composted horse manure or mushroom compost is ideal. Lay in a ring around the plants/shrubs/trees, or complete coverage of a 3-4 inch depth.

Feed roses – perhaps Vitax/Toprose.

Feed shrubs with bone meal.

Prune late summer and autumn flowering clematis to the lowest pair of strong buds above ground level. Best to check labels, as clematis have lots of varieties and many different pruning techniques.

Pressure wash patios, paths and decking. Treat/stain wood to preserve life.

April

Plant potatoes.

Sow carrots, spring onions, broccoli and cabbage.

Asparagus can be harvested now for the next 6 to 8 weeks.

Weed and feed lawn.

Sow hardy annuals and herbs as well as foxgloves and hollyhocks.

Prune spring flowering shrubs immediately after flowering.

May

Transplant brussel sprouts to their growing position.

Continue to sow salad crops and vegetables.

Carrots will be ready now right up to October.

Sow courgettes in late May/early June, and cover with plastic for two weeks.

A good time to weed kill ground elder. It may take a few attempts!

Cut down daffodils and tulips when they have completely turned brown, usually six weeks after turning.

June

Continue sowing beans, peas and lettuce.

Harvest salads and early potatoes.

Tidy up hedges if cutting twice a year (watching out for nesting birds!).

Keep newly planted trees and shrubs watered.

Plant out summer bedding plants.

Deadhead roses to encourage fresh blooms.

Prune deciduous magnolia.

July

Lift new potatoes.

Pick courgettes and spring onions.

Lift garlic as soon as the leaves begin to wither, and hang them like onions to allow them to dry out. Also start lifting shallots.

Keep dead heading flowers and roses as they turn.

Prune wisteria growth down to 5 or 6 leaves.

Plant autumn flowering bulbs.

August

Lift onions and potatoes.

Harvest peas, beans, sweetcorn and early leeks.

Harvest early season apples.

Start hedge cutting, being careful not to scorch newly cut branches in very hot conditions.

Prune summer flowering shrubs after they have flowered.

Deadhead roses.

September

Harvest brussels sprouts all the way through to February; they taste better after a frost!

Keep lifting potatoes.

Spread an autumn lawn food. A good time to grass seed. One can also scarify the lawn in autumn time.

Prune climbing roses once they finish flowering.

October

Harvest apples, pears and plums.

Keep picking leeks and start harvesting parsnips well into December.

Finish up lifting potatoes.

Finish any grass seeding that needs to be done. Turfing can continue all year.

Plant spring flowering bulbs such as daffodils and tulips.

Clear leaves. Cut back perennials that have died down.

Prune most roses down by a third to avoid wind damage (check by type).

A good time to plant herbaceous perennials.

Cut off dry seed heads of alliums, leeks etc to dry out for Christmas decorations.

November

Harvest leeks, parsnips, sprouts and remaining root crops.

Plant individual cloves of garlic. Plant shallots through to mid March.

Finish mowing for the year, perhaps getting garden machinery serviced.

Plant bare rooted hedging, trees and roses – up to March.

Keep clearing leaves.

December

Plant new fruit trees.

Brush snow off shrubs and hedges where possible, especially Lonicera hedging.

Consider covering specimen trees such as bays and olives with some horticultural fleece to protect against snow and frost.

Dig over beds.

 Orange refers to fruit and vegetables.

 Green refers to lawns and hedges.

 Brown refers to gardening.

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