

What to do in November

General Tasks

Once all the vegetable has been harvested, clear the area of any old leaves, weeds, bamboo canes, etc. Remove yellow leaves from and provide support to any brassicas plants.

Keep an eye on stored crops. Check it every now and then as they are prone to damage by rodents, etc. If they show any sign of damage, put them into the compost bin.

Plan and order your seeds for the new season.

It is not the most interesting job to do but this is a good time to give all the pots a good scrub in garden disinfectant mixed with water or soapy water. Clean, sharpen and oil the secateurs, spades, forks, shears, etc.

This is the time to incorporate organic matter by digging it over. The longer the weather has to work on the soil, the better. There is no need to double dig unless there is a hard layer (pan). A lot of people are adopting the 'No Dig' method by spreading the organic matter on top of the soil and left it for the worms to do the job over the winter.

You can still get a visit from our little friends – slugs. Continue to provide protection for your winter crops.

Check your compost bins whether they need sorting out – make use of the well-rotted compost, make way for any green waste generated, etc. When the bins are empty, check for any damage.

Do a general tidy up of the whole garden. Take any rubbish to the tip if need be. Burn any diseased plants; unusable wood, etc. (make sure the wind is blowing in the right direction or ideally no wind at all).

Greenhouse

Clear any plants that have finished.

Keep an eye out for any rodents as they can cause havoc by digging up pea and bean seeds. They may even set up their nesting place in the stacks of pots in the corner.

Do a regular check on the greenhouse or polytunnel for any structural damage caused by strong winds. Repair or replace any loose pieces of glasses.

Incorporate organic matter into the soil to improve the soil structure and health.

Make sure the doors and windows are kept closed during windy days.

Tidy up the shelves, benches, pots, trays, etc and stack them neatly. Throw away any broken pots.

Fruits

Pick any late fruits around the garden before the first frosts arrive. Check for any damage; let it dry before storing them away. Keep apples and pears in trays in cool, frost free shed or garage or in an unheated room indoors. Any cane fruits, raspberries and blackberries, once picked whilst still in good condition, make into jams, pies or freeze them.

Prune grapes once the leaves have fallen. Leave a horizontal branches from the vertical shoots are allowed to grow at approximately 15cm intervals. This is where the fruits are produced. Cut back the vertical shoots to 2 buds while the plants are dormant.

Prepare the grounds before planting any fruit canes by removing the weeds, digging in or spread the well rotted organic matter and provide support.

If you have any fruit bushes in pots, they are more vulnerable to the cold weather. You can move them indoors e.g. unheated greenhouse or garage. If the pot is too heavy to carry, use a piece of bubble wrap around the pot to help insulate the roots.

Sow Now	Plant Now	Harvest Now
Salad leaves	Garlic	Carrots
Broad beans	Winter lettuce	Potatoes
Sweet peas	Rhubarb	Beetroot
Early peas	Fruit trees	Onions
Turnips (for tops)	Fruit bushes	Garlic
	Onion sets (early Nov)	Celery
	Spring cabbages (early Nov)	Celeriac
		Parsnips
		Swiss chard
		Lettuce
		Salsify
		scorzonera
		Spinach
		Swedes
		Apples
		Pears
		Cauliflowers
		Oriental cabbages
		Savoy
		Winter cabbages
		Brussels sprouts
		Broccoli
		Turnips
		Winter squashes