

SEPTEMBER

Jobs to do in the garden
this month



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for everyone's garden

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Photo by Jonathan Kemper

FLOWERS

- o Divide your herbaceous perennials
- o Sow hardy annuals, such as cornflowers
- o Collect ripe seeds from your favourite flowers and store in labelled envelopes, ready to sow in spring
- o Lift, divide and replant perennials once they finish flowering
- o Fill any gaps with late-flowering perennials to provide nectar for pollinating insects into autumn
- o Take cuttings from fuchsias, salvias and pelargoniums
- o Leave sunflower seed heads in place for birds to feed on
- o Water autumn-flowering asters regularly to deter mildew
- o Check roses for signs of fungal diseases, such as blackspot, and pick off any affected leaves
- o Prune climbing roses and rambling roses once they've finished flowering (unless they are repeat-flowering varieties, in which case leave them until later in the year)



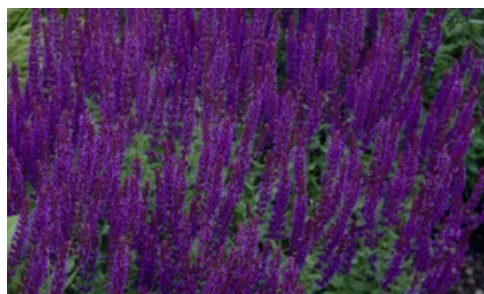


Fuchsia Dollar Princess - Hardy Fuchsia

Fuchsia Dollar Princess is one of the best red and purple hardy garden fuchsias you can buy, holding the RHS award of garden merit for its ease of growth and excellent garden performance.

Salvia Nemorosa Blue Queen - Ostfriesland

Salvia Ostfriesland has slender upright spires of rich blue-violet flowers in early and mid-summer above wrinkled, mid-green leaves.



Michaelmas Daisy - Aster Rubin

These Flowering Michaelmas Daisies make a spectacular show from late summer throughout the Autumn period, and are perfect to fill the garden with a beautiful show of bright colour.

Buy these autumn plants from
www.GardeningExpress.co.uk

FRUIT & VEG

- o Sow hardy greens, such as kale, land cress, and lettuce, for winter pickings
- o Prune out all the fruited canes of summer raspberries, cutting down to the base, and tie in new canes to supports
- o Cut away any leaves covering the fruits of pumpkins, squash and marrows to help the skins ripen in the sun
- o Pick apples and pears before the wind blows them down, and store undamaged fruits if you can't eat them fresh
- o Store chillies by threading the stalks onto strong wire and hanging up to dry somewhere warm and dry
- o Cut off trusses of unripe outdoor tomatoes before the weather turns cold, then ripen them indoors
- o Lift maincrop potatoes, dry off and store in hessian or paper sacks, in a cool, dark, well-ventilated place
- o Complete summer pruning of both free-standing and trained apple trees, to encourage good fruiting in future years
- o Collect up and bin apples, plums and pears infected with brown rot, to reduce the spread of this fungal disease
- o Pinch out the tips of outdoor tomato plants to concentrate the plant's energy into ripening fruits, and not producing further growth.
- o Harvest sweetcorn. To test if it's ready, pinch a kernel — it will release a milky sap when ripe. If the kernels are starchy, you've left it too late. If they're watery they need a little longer to ripen.
- o Help pumpkins ripen in time for Halloween by removing any leaves shading the fruits
- o Start the autumn cleanup. Remove any old crops that have finished, and clear away weeds to leave your plot clean and tidy for the winter
- o Sow late season seed potatoes this month for a harvest of new potatoes at Christmas

POTS, BASKETS, BORDERS & CONTAINERS

- o Plant wallflowers, pansies, forget-me-nots and other spring bedding in pots and borders
- o Plant up containers for autumn interest, using heathers and other colourful bedding plants
- o Plant spring bulbs, including crocuses, daffodils, and bluebells in pots and borders
- o Keep summer bedding flowering in hanging baskets and pots for as long as possible by deadheading and feeding regularly



GREENHOUSE

- o Sow sweet peas for early summer blooming next year
- o Plant prepared hyacinth bulbs in pots for fragrant indoor flowers at Christmas
- o Take down greenhouse shade netting or wash off shading paint by the end of the month, as light levels start to fall
- o Stay vigilant for pests and diseases in the greenhouse, and treat any you find immediately
- o Pot up tender perennials, such as fuchsias, from summer displays and bring indoors before temperatures drop
- o Repot moth orchids after flowering if they look like they're about to burst out of their pot
- o Plant amaryllis bulbs in pots for spectacular flowers over the festive season
- o Pay close attention to greenhouse ventilation, shutting vents on cool nights
- o Check greenhouse heaters are in good working order
- o Look out for forecasts of early frosts and be ready to bring tender potted plants under cover
- o Move potted peaches and nectarines into a cool greenhouse or porch
- o Empty pots, old compost and decaying plant material can bring unwanted pests over winter





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GARDEN MAINTENANCE

- o Trim conifer hedges to neaten them up and control height
- o Rake lawns, aerate well-trodden areas by spiking with a garden fork, and re-seed bare patches
- o Put netting across ponds to stop autumn leaves falling in and rotting
- o Clean out water butts and check guttering fittings in preparation for autumn rains
- o Remove algae from water features and ponds
- o Check that tree ties and plant supports are firmly in place, ahead of any autumn winds
- o Wash and disinfect bird feeders and tables
- o Collect fallen leaves to store in bin bags to make leaf mould
- o Create a new lawn from turf or seed — autumn weather is perfect for good lawn establishment
- o Raise the height of your mower blades as grass growth slows down
- o Feed your lawn with an autumn fertiliser which is rich in potassium and low in nitrogen
- o Create compost bins in preparation for all the fallen leaves and dead plant material which you'll be collecting over the coming months





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HOUSEPLANTS

- o Bring any houseplants that you moved outside over summer back indoors, before temperatures start to drop
- o Water houseplants less frequently and move them to a windowsill during the daytime to allow them to soak up more sunlight, but remember to remove from windowsill at night time
- o Dust the leaves and use leaf shine, removing dead or browning leaves when needed
- o Wrap pot in bubble wrap to keep tropical houseplants warm



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PLANNING

- o Plan next year's garden by making rough sketches of your flower borders and vegetable plot
- o Order spring-flowering bulbs now for planting this autumn
- o Order trees and shrubs to be planted this autumn
- o Order your strawberries, raspberries, currant bushes and other berry fruits for cropping next year as these plants are best planted during their dormant season
- o Order bare-root fruit trees to plant later in autumn or winter
- o Think about what events you may be hosting outdoors next year and what new furniture may be required



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