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BARBECUES, FIRE PITS, GARY, HOW TO, RECIPE • August 28, 2018

Cooking on a Firepit



It's been a long hot summer, and we've been rushing to rescue our barbeques from the depths of the shed. With the heatwave finally on its way out, but a warm autumn predicted we have a few more weeks of pink sausages and overcooked burgers to look forward too. But does the barbeque risk becoming a bit - samey? Is it time for a new way of cooking outdoors? Perhaps one that has been sitting there unnoticed all along - the humble fire pit.

The Pit vs the BBQ

The BBQ is as synonymous with a British summer as ice pops and Wimbledon. So, why would we want to change this staple of our year?

It all comes down to adaptability- the pit is not only a way of cooking, it's a social experience. You might just want to bask in its glow with a bottle of wine. On some nights, You might want to invite the family round and cook over the open fire - on the best nights you'll do both. Cooking over an open fire is an inherently social and primal experience that lends itself perfectly to a party where everyone sits, talks and cooks their own food.

The versatility of food you can cook on a firepit is impressive. Anything that can be cooked over a grill can be cooked on a firepit and if your pit comes with a lid you open up the world of roasting. You can also sear steak, hot dogs, and burgers over the fire as well as throwing a pan over the flames to fry seafood, vegetables and more. Some fancier pits will come with a **rotisserie bar** which allows you to cook whole poultry and game-birds and if your pit is big enough - suckling pig and lamb.



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by *NPS Photo / Mackenzie Reed*

The Basics

Cooking on a fire pit is probably alien to a lot of people. It's not something we are used to doing, and it can be daunting to consider learning a whole new way of cooking and everything that comes with it. If you are willing to give to give it a go you are in for a culinary treat, but as with all forms of cooking there are a few rules that need to be followed:

Keep Water Nearby – This one may seem obvious, but it always worth reiterating. Open flames can be very dangerous and unpredictable, you may have pets and children to consider and some wood has a habit of spitting. Make sure that you always keep a bucket of water within easy reach of the pit just in case of accidents.

Prepare the Fire Correctly – The instinct may be to begin cooking as soon as you see flames, don't do this. The ideal fire for cooking over will be mainly made up of hot coals and a few logs of burning wood. Light the fire and wait for 30-40 mins for the fire to burn down and the coals to start glowing – this is when it's ideal to cook on.

Use the Right Fuel – The best fuel for fire pit cooking is a combination of coal and wood. The coals will be your main heat producer and can be bought from specialist retailers. Your choice of wood will decide flavour: If possible, use shop bought almond, cherry, hickory or mesquite wood for the best burn time and flavour. If you can't find these near you charcoal can be used as a substitute. Do not use artificial firestarters or logs.

Use the Right Equipment – Your new outdoor kitchen will need some equipment before you get started. If you are planning on a more traditional selection of food then this [toolset](#) is a fun place to start. However, if you want to be a bit more adventurous then this [Dutch oven cooking set](#) is ideal.

The Cooking

So, both you and the fire are prepared; the beer is cold and the family are nattering – it's time to cook. As soon as the coals are red hot you're ready to go. But how do we actually go about cooking on the pit?



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Grilling

The firepit can still be used to cook our garden party faves, this familiar way of cooking is the best place to start since you already know the basic timings and method. Some fire pits will **come with a grill**, but you can buy grill racks to fit over the top of your pit. Another option is to lay out the raw ingredients and let your guests cook their own food in a grill basket – it frees you up to host and provides a bit of theatre and socialisation to the evening.

Skewering

We've all seen it in the films – people toasting marshmallows on a stick over a fire. This quintessential camping practice is a great way to end an evening and get the conversation flowing. But smores are not the only thing you can cook with a skewer. Sausages are a given but small chunks of meat and veg are also great when cooked like this. This **method** of cooking is simple, you need nothing but the skewer – just make sure it's metal.



By [cyrusbulsara](#) from Flickr under CCBY2.0

Pot Cooking

This kind of cooking requires the most equipment, but really expands the repertoire of what can be made. With the **right recipe**, you can be cooking a variety of foods that would not be possible on a barbeque. This method is best utilised with one-pot dishes like stews or curries and is a homely way of serving pre-made dishes whilst keeping them warm.

Cooking in the pot can be done in a few ways:

For keeping food warm or slow cooking. **Hanging your pot** from a tripod is the best option – You keep the heat constant and serving is easy (this is a great way of making and serving mulled wine). Or, if your fire is cool enough you can put the pot directly on the coals.





by [Roland Balik](#), 436th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

For frying – Put a pan or pot on the grill and cook as normal.

For faster cooking dishes – Rake the coals and wood to one side of the firepit, and put your pot in the empty space. This is a good method for dishes that require boiling.

You can really let your imagination be free with this one. If you have a Firepit Table or a spare pan, why not have a fondue for afters, or bake bread on a quiet weekend.

Spit Roasting

This way of cooking has been around for over 8,000 years and strips cookery back to its core – fire and meat. Yes, it can be time-consuming, but as soon as you take the first bite of tender, slightly smoked chicken you'll never want to go back to the oven. Spit roasting can be a complex way of cooking but [guides](#) can be found online.



Image source

Most firepits won't be big enough to do a full hog roast, but [some get close](#). You will get your best results from poultry and game birds to start off with, but as your confidence and skills grow you can attempt small suckling pigs and larger birds like turkey. Just remember to turn the spit regularly and adhere to standard roasting times and you'll be fine.

Cooking on the firepit needn't be something to fear or shy away from, and this is just a very basic guide on how to start. Once you gain confidence you will keep finding new ways to push your skills. Cooking on a pit is great but they are also great ways to just relax in your garden. For whatever reason a firepit may appeal to you [Primrose has you covered](#).



Gary works in the Primrose product loading team, writing product descriptions and other copy. With seven years as a professional chef



copy. With seven years as a professional chef under his belt, he can usually be found experimenting in the kitchen or sat reading a book.

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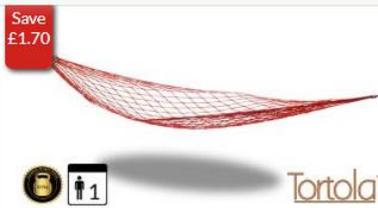


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Feel Fresh For February



As we wait for the return of sunnier days now is a great time to plan and prepare. What sort of garden are you going to have this year? Think about new garden layouts you'd like to try, new plants you'd like to see in your beds come summer, vegetables you'd like to have a go at growing or spaces you'd like to create for relaxing, for the kids to play in or for wildlife to flourish.



Fast-growing hardy annuals are perfect for the start of the year when you want to see some early colour. Resistant to light frost you can get on with planting these towards the end of winter, ready for spring and summer.

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You don't need an orchard to benefit from the delights of harvesting your own fruit. Now is a great time to plant bare-root fruit trees as the



dormant period will permit a strong foundation of roots to grow that will support a strong and healthy plant come spring.



SHOP FRUIT TREES



That empty spot in the garden that could do with a little rejuvenating; how about a raised bed? A great project to work on that requires only a few simple supplies and tools, you can create a whole new area for planting. Whether it's a vegetable patch or a new opportunity for adding colourful blooms to the garden you can build a bed and prep good quality nutritious soil so it's ready for planting in spring.

SHOP RAISED BEDDING

Your lawn can be a bit delicate this time of year with frosts causing the grass to become brittle and prone to breaking whilst borders can become lost with the wet and windy conditions. A great way of easing the pressure on your lawn is with some garden track and lawn edging; easy solutions for great results come spring.



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What is a Fibrecotta Planter?

There are a lot of different planters out there, with styles to match every garden design and climate. With so much choice it can be hard to know what to buy; a stone planter may look nice but might be too heavy, a zinc planter may give you the sleek look you want, but not be strong enough. If you are looking for a catch-all planter material we would recommend you consider Fibrecotta.



Fibrecotta Planter in Garden

What is it ?

Fibrecotta is a compound material made from layering cellulose fiber and clay with fiberglass. Once shaped, the finished material is then set, rather than fired. This manufacturing process leaves very little waste when compared to other materials and because it is set rather than fired it is more environmentally friendly.



Why Fibrecotta?

Lightweight – Fibrecotta is a lightweight material that lets you easily position even large planters wherever you want in your garden.

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Durable – Because of their fiberglass content, Fibrecotta is a strong material that can cope with everything the weather can throw at it. Importantly, it is frost resistant so you can leave the planter out all year. It will also not corrode with the natural acids and alkalis in the soil.

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Gary works in the Primrose product loading team, writing product descriptions and other copy. With seven years as a professional chef under his belt, he can usually be found experimenting in the kitchen or sat reading a book.

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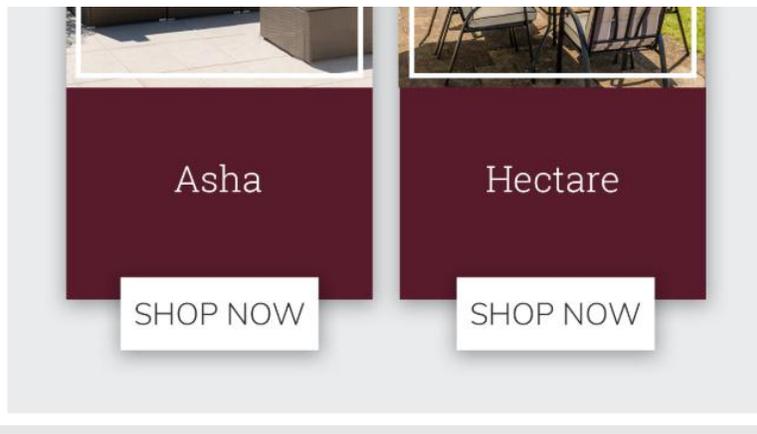
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Christmas is coming, and now the winter has arrived, it's time to make sure your garden is prepared for the colder weather. Going outside may be the last thing you want to do in the rain and snow, but it's important to make sure your plants and trees are protected from the elements and essential maintenance is sorted. So here's a quick run-down of the main jobs to do in the garden this month.

Frost Fortification



We're all hoping for a white Christmas, but you need to make sure your plants are protected from the frost. Fibrecotta pots are created to resist breaking in frosty conditions, so these can be a great choice for winter. For plants in flowerbeds, our Easy Fleece Tunnel guards growing plants against harsh weather while creating warmth and insulation.

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Pruning The Cut

While plants are dormant, it's a great time to prune many species including fruit bushes, apple and pear trees, and many types of roses. Pruning in the winter months can encourage strong growth, prevent disease, and encourage flowers and fruit. Our Professional Anvil Secateurs have high-quality SK5 carbon steel blades that offer precision cutting.



Warm as Toast



It's cold outside, so make sure the plants in your greenhouse remain warm and toasty. A greenhouse heater is a great way of controlling the temperature and protecting your plants from frost damage. Our 7-Day Paraffin Greenhouse Heater burns continuously for 7 days from one filling, giving you peace of mind when it comes to looking after your plants this winter.



a Bird in the Hand

Frozen ground and iced water sources mean food can become scarce for our feathered friends, so make sure to keep bird feeders and

tables stocked up. Marriage's High Energy Wild Bird Seed and Suet Mix is a nutrient-rich feed that's perfect for the colder months. Nest boxes can be used for roosting by some species during the winter, so make sure to give them a good clean.



All Tied Up



Windy weather can cause wind rock which can tear new roots and slow down establishment.

So make sure to protect your newly planted bare root trees from movement by staking them using wooden stakes and tree ties. Our 60cm Super Soft Tree Tie has a figure of 8 self-locking structure which fixes the tree to the stake without additional support.



Winter can be a tricky time for your garden, so it's important to be prepared making sure your plants are protected from tough weather conditions and the right groundwork is laid for a bountiful harvest come summer. There's plenty more to do in the garden this month, so make sure to check out our December gardening jobs guide on the Primrose blog for a full run-down

of gardening tasks to complete.



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GARDENING JOBS

In January



The best results come from the ground up, literally. Having a quality supply of compost can set you up for growing success in all areas of your garden. You can compost a wide variety

of things from kitchen food waste like fruit and vegetable cuttings, stale bread, old newspapers; even woollen jumpers if they're 100% natural. One of the first things you can compost this year is the Christmas tree! Real trees are excellent for composing if broken down and worked into a compost heap. Not the fake trees though...they can go back in the loft.

SHOP
COMPOSTING



With many plants remaining bare this time of year, it's an excellent chance to prune back young trees, shrubs and climbers. This is great for encouraging new growth and controlling the overall shape of your garden. Always prune little by little, month by month or year by year. We have a variety of tools to assist with pruning around the garden to get the best results from your efforts.

SHOP
PRUNING TOOLS



For many of us, the centrepiece of a garden is a pristine lawn. Lush, manicured and flat, this simple thing can be achieved only with patience and attention. Fortunately, we

have everything you need for growing a lawn you can proudly show off to the neighbours including garden track so you can work through the garden without harming the grass.

SHOP
LAWN CARE



Though the cold weather and shorter days can make garden upkeep seem a little unforgiving, this can soon start to change and doing a little sowing prep can reap rewards come summer. Strawberries, raspberries and blueberries can be planted under cloches, whilst broad beans, potatoes and brassicas can be started either under a cloche or in the greenhouse.

SHOP
GROW YOUR OWN



Though fruit trees might make us think of rows upon rows of trees, you don't need an orchard to enjoy a harvest of fresh fruit. Now is an excellent time to plant fruit trees

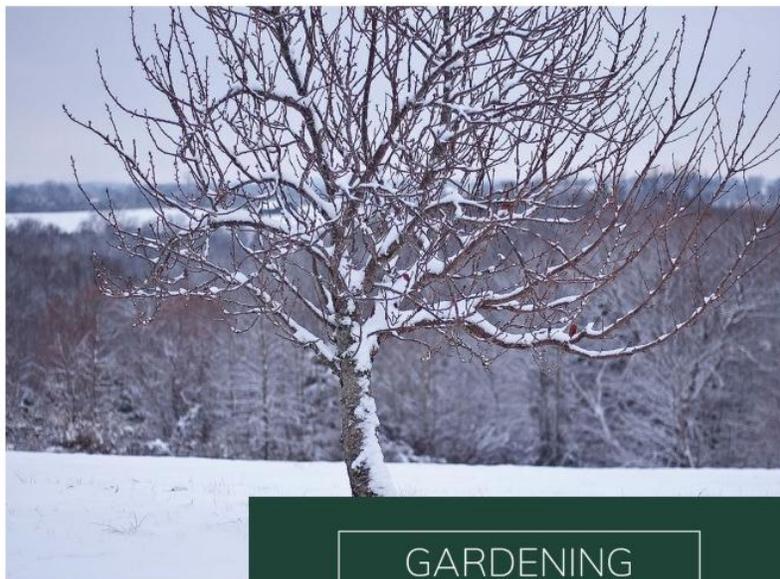
as many will be in a dormant state. This means energy can go into establishing strong roots in preparation for forming fruit in the spring. We have a variety of stakes and ties to help young trees establish so you can enjoy the fruits of growing your own.

SHOP
FRUIT TREES



One of the easiest ways to update your garden space is with a change in lighting. Whether it's fairy lights or sunken spotlights you can use a variety of solutions to add drama to space or highlight the areas you love most.

SHOP
LIGHTING



GARDENING
JOBS

Head over to the Primrose blog to discover more ideas for your garden this month.

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MORE



2 YEAR WARRANTY
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It's a great time to...

GROW YOUR OWN FOOD



The sun's out, so there's no better time to get growing in your garden. We have everything you need to get your new veg patch started

Smaller Garden? No problem, even the smallest courtyard or balcony can become an allotment with one of our potato barrels.

Our trusted UK growers have **increased their capacity** to ensure we continue to deliver 'nursery fresh' plants as quickly and safely as possible. Order now for **delivery within 2-3 working days.**

GROW
YOUR OWN



Gardener's Delight
Tomato Plants
5 Plants

SHOP
NOW



Perpetual Spinach
10 Plants

SHOP
NOW



'Early Nantes' Carrot
Plants
10 plants

SHOP
NOW



'Green Bush'
Courgette Plants
3 Plants

SHOP
NOW



'Marketmore'
Cucumber Plants
3 Plants

SHOP
NOW



'Enorma' Runner
Bean Plants
10 Plant

SHOP
NOW





The Victorian Potato Barrel allows you to grow potatoes from your own garden or patio, no matter how small it is.

SHOP NOW

HOW TO START A VEGETABLE GARDEN



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£12.99

Grow Your Own Purple Daze Veg Ki...
£12.99

Grow Your Own Extreme Chillii Kit |...
£12.99

Grow Your Own Bonsai Kit | By Plan...
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Kitchen Herb Garden Windowsill...
£12.99
★★★★★

Vegetable Starter Patch | 6 Varieties |...
£9.99

- All Plants
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- Fruiting Trees
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- Fruiting Plants
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 - Nut Trees
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 - Apple Trees
 - Cherry Fruit Trees

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 - Ornamental Trees
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 - Rose Bushes
 - Cherry Blossom Trees
 - Acer Trees
 - Bamboo Plants

- Pond Plants
 - Marginal & Pond Edge Plants
 - Floating Pond Plants
 - Oxygenating Pond Plants
 - Deep Water & Floating Pond Plants

- Hedging
 - Box Hedging
 - Laurel Hedging
 - Yew Hedging
 - Photinia Hedging
 - Fast Growing Hedging

- Harvesting Period
 - Early Season Fruit Trees
 - Mid Season Fruit Trees
 - Late Season Fruit Trees

Grow Your Own Zesty Herb Kit | By Plant Theory

Code: PT001



~~£29.99~~ **£12.99** inc. VAT

Save 56%

New

In Stock

Despatched within 5 working days.

Based on our current delivery times you can expect your order to arrive in 1-2 weeks.

Click here to find out how our dedicated teams are operating during the [Covid-19 lockdown](#).

Delivery £6.99 per order, no matter how many items you order - [more info](#)
60 days to return - [more info](#)
No need to sign for it! We'll deliver at our own risk - [more info](#)

£12.99 Quantity

Pay with **amazon PayPal**

Add to basket

Discounts for quantity

x1	£12.99 each	
x2+	£11.99 each	Save £2.00



Enjoy the great flavours of fresh ingredients with the **Zesty Herb Kit**. This handy kit comes with everything you need to grow your own herbs. It contains **five classic herbs** used in cooking- Basil, Chives, Oregano, Parsley, and Thyme- specifically chosen to complement each other and offer variety - the perfect gift for the aspiring chef. Our **100% germination guarantee** ensures growing success, and our **fully recyclable packaging** leaves no waste. This kit allows you to grow your own produce even in urban areas, and would be a great gift for the novice cook and experienced grower alike.

- Quality GM free seeds sourced in UK
- Peat free & Vegan compost
- 100% Germination guarantee*
- Easy to follow instructions with recipe cards
- 100% Plastic-free, recyclable packaging and components



Kit Includes

- 5x Seed packets: Basil, Parsley, Rosemary, Fennel and Thyme.
- 5x Biodegradable bamboo pots
- 5x Wooden Plant labels
- 1x Vegro multipurpose compost
- 1x Pack of Vermiculite
- 1x Wooden Pencil
- 1x Wooden Tweezer
- 1x Jute bag
- 1x Instruction booklet

Packaging Size

- Height: 28.5cm
- Diameter: 10.2cm



Wooden tweezers for handling your seeds
Biodegradable bamboo pots
Peat free and vegan compost in an environmentally friendly jute bag
Recycle me after you're done

See our Other Kits



Grow Your Own Extreme Chilli Kit | By Plant...

£29.99 ~~£12.99~~

New



Grow Your Own Purple Daze Veg Kit | By Plant...

£29.99 ~~£12.99~~

New



Grow Your Own Cocktail Kit | By Plant Theory

£29.99 ~~£12.99~~

New



Grow Your Own Bonsai Kit | By Plant Theory

£29.99 ~~£12.99~~

New



How to Plant

Pre-sowing

Soak the seeds in warm water for 24 hours. This will allow the seeds to swell and absorb water which will help with germination.

Sowing

1. Fill the bamboo pots with compost (keep a little aside to cover the seeds)
2. Using tweezers, carefully sow a few seeds and cover with fine layer of compost. Gently even out the top layer of the compost to make it flat but don't compact it.
3. Sprinkle a few vermiculite around the seeds, this will slowly release nutrients back to the seeds which it has absorbed during watering.
4. Label your plant marker with the seed type you have planted and add into each bamboo pot. Stand each pot in a saucer and place the pots in a cool dry area for 14 days. Do not put in direct sunlight.
5. Place your pots in a well ventilated warm area. Now water regularly, keep the compost moist but not saturated. Once the seedlings reach 3 inches in height, transplant the pot into a larger pot to allow enough room for proper continued growth.

The Theory

We believe that anyone, regardless of ability can successfully grow their own plants at home, and do so in an eco-friendly and sustainable way.

Everyone should have the chance to experience the benefits that plants bring to our lives, and we have put a lot of effort into making sure that all of our products are easy to grow, even for beginners.

Sustainability is at the heart of our ethos and we have developed our seed kits over the last 10 years to ensure that all of our products are as sustainable as possible, be it our fully recyclable packaging, GM free seeds or ethically sourced vegan compost.







Fennel



Parsley

Zesty Herb



Thyme



Rosemary



Basil

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120cm Variegated Monstera...

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New



2ft 'Early Red' | 4.5L...

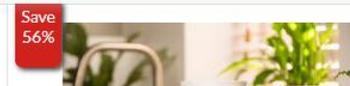
£24.99



GaryTestPage

~~£99,999.00~~
New

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£12.99
~~£29.99~~

✓ In Stock

New

Despatched within 5 working days



Grow Your Own Cocktail Kit | By Plant Theory

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✓ In Stock

New

Despatched within 5 working days

Save
56%



Grow Your Own Extreme Chilli Kit | By Plant Theory

£12.99
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✓ In Stock

New

Despatched within 5 working days

Stock currently supplied by Howard Tenens

Quantity in stock: 197
Last stock update: 2020-03-30 12:40:10

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Save Up To **60%** On Heated Clothing

Wrapping up warm makes getting those necessary gardening jobs done that little bit easier. With more unsettled weather on the way now is a great time to get those essential winter warmers and make a great saving too!

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Top Picks...

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SIMILAR PINK & PURPLE WOMEN'S HUNTER MOTHER'S DAY GIFTS WELLINGTON BOOTS

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| | | | | | | | | | |
| NEW | NEW | NEW | NEW | NEW | NEW | NEW | NEW | NEW | |
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£79.99 | Women's Black Original Wellinto...
£74.99 | Women's Violet Tall Gloss Wellington B...
£93.99 | Women's Green Original Wellington...
£74.99 | Women's Thistle Wellington By...
£79.99 | Kids Pink Original Wellington By...
£41.99 | Women's Dark Slate Tall Gloss Wellingt...
£93.99 | Women's Black Tall Gloss Wellington B...
£93.99 | Kids Bright Pink Wellington By...
£32.99 | Me-
£93 |

View All Wellington Boots

Brand

- Hunter Muck Boot
- Cotswold

Gender

- Men's Wellington Boots
- Women's Wellington Boots
- Children's Wellington Boots

Style

- Tall Boots
- Short Boots
- Ankle Boots
- Low Shoes
- Clogs

Women's Violet Wellington By Hunter - Sizes 3 - 8

Code: CF1097



RRP ~~£80.00~~ **£74.99** inc. VAT

Save £5.01

New

Delivered Next Working Day

(if ordered by 1pm Mon-Fri).

Our trusted suppliers are working with us to deliver your product as quickly and safely as possible.

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Shoe Size :

- Ladies' Size 3 £74.99 In Stock
- Ladies' Size 4 £74.99 In Stock
- Ladies' Size 5 £74.99 In Stock
- Ladies' Size 6 £74.99 In Stock
- Ladies' Size 7 £74.99 In Stock
- Ladies' Size 8 £74.99 In Stock

£74.99

Quantity



Add to basket

Specifications

- **Style:** Short Wellington
- **Colour:** Violet
- **Sizes:** UK 3-8 (Select size at top of page)

This Short Wellington is **stylish, sleek and perfect for wet weather**. Handcrafted from 28 parts using **natural rubber**, this Original Icon is assembled over three days before being **vulcanised for superior protection**. This versatile boot is great for gardening, hiking or wearing at a festival.

We recommend: that this boot is worn with socks to protect the skin from rubbing on the rubber.

- Fully waterproof
- Handcrafted from 28 parts
- Polyester lining
- Rubber outsole with Hunter Original tread pattern
- Crafted from natural vulcanised rubber with matte finish





HUNTER

Founded in 1856, Hunter is a progressive British heritage brand renowned for its iconic Original boot. Holding two Royal Warrants of Appointment to HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, the brand has a rich history of innovation and continues to forge designs that shield pioneers from the elements.

Built on a philosophy of protection, intelligence and craftsmanship, the Hunter product range looks to Hunter's heritage of pioneering design to create advanced boots for those who require excellence in all weathers and landscapes.



[Find more from Hunter Here](#)

HUNTER

Hunter
from
£32.99





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~~£279.99~~ £249.99
 New



2ft 'Early Red' | 4.5L...
 £24.99



GaryTestPage
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 New



Grow Your Own Zesty Herb...
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 New



Arctic Weekend Black...
 £94.99
 New



Women's Green Original...
~~£80.00~~ £74.99
 New

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Save £7.01



Muckster II Black Men's Ankle Wellington Boot by Muck Boot - Sizes 6-13

£57.99
 RRP £65.00

★★★★★
 1 review

✓ In Stock Delivered Next Working Day

Save £8



Muckster II Green Ankle Wellington Boot by Muck Boot - Sizes 3-9

£49.99
 RRP £57.99

New

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Arctic Adventure Print Navy Quilt Ladies Short Wellington Boots by Muck Boot - Sizes...

RRP £94.99

New

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Arctic Adventure Black Ladies Slimming Look Wellington Boots by Muck Boot - Sizes...

RRP £103.99

New

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Arctic Adventure Black/Tan Ladies Slimming Look Wellington Boots Muck Boot - Sizes...

RRP £103.99

New

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Arctic Adventure Black/Maroon Ladies Slimming Look Wellington Boots by Muck Boot...

RRP £103.99

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 - Tree Planters

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 - Trough Planters
 - Square / Cube Planters
 - Cylinder / Cone Planters
 - Tall / Flared Square Planters
 - Egg Planters
 - Bowl Planters
 - Urn Planters

Price: £0 - £1000+ Clear

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 - Wood Planters
 - Rattan / Wicker Planters
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 - Poly-Terrazzo Planters
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Plantpak Hydroponic Indoor Garden

Code: TE20032



£39.99 inc. VAT

✓ In Stock
Only 2 available - order soon
 Despatched within 5 working days.

Based on our current delivery times you can expect your order to arrive in 1-2 weeks.

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 60 days to return - [more info](#)
 No need to sign for it! We'll deliver at our own risk - [more info](#)

£39.99 Quantity

Pay with **amazon PayPal**

Plantpak Hydroponic Indoor Garden

This hydroponic indoor garden is a self-watering and self-feeding marvel, enabling gardeners to easily grow superior vegetables, herbs, salad greens and more. The plants are immersed with precisely calibrated nutrition at all times, giving reliably fast results that can be clipped and eaten as they grow. The Hydroponic Indoor Garden is an easy and foolproof way of growing greenery for your plate, perfect for indoor and space-restricted gardeners.

Features

- Hydroponic technology provides precisely calibrated nutrition for reliably fast results
- Ideal for vegetables, herbs and salad greens, which can be clipped and enjoyed as they grow
- Perfect for indoor spaces or balconies

Specifications

- Height: 26.5cm (10.4in)
- Diameter: 11.7cm (4.6in)
- Depth: 11cm (4.3in)



About PlantPak

Plantpak offers a full range of indoor and outdoor growing solutions for the avid or amateur gardener. It's all about growing your own, and with a wide range of grow houses and hydroponics, you'll be able to follow your produce from garden to kitchen. So, no matter if you working with a balcony, windowsill or allotment, PlantPak offers everything you need to get growing.

- Fibrecotta Planters
- Real Terracotta Planters
- Ceramic Planters
- Plastic Planters

Colour

- Black Planters
- White / Cream Planters
- Silver / Grey Planters
- Copper Planters
- Terracotta Colour Planters
- Green Planters
- Blue Planters

Type

- Hanging Baskets
- Wall Planters
- Window Boxes
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<p>Save £5</p> <p>L70cm Zinc Galvanised Black Trough Planter - By Primrose™</p> <p>£24.99 £29.99</p> <p>★★★★★ 37 reviews</p> <p>✓ In Stock Despatched within 5 working days</p>	<p>Grey Polystone Cube Planter - Mixed Set of 3 H40cm/H30cm/H20cm</p> <p>£126.99</p> <p>✓ In Stock Despatched within 5 working days</p>	<p>23cm Fibrecotta Sand Cube Pot - Set of 2</p> <p>£44.99</p> <p>★★★★★ 1 review</p> <p>✓ In Stock Despatched within 5 working days</p>
<p>23cm Terracotta Fibrecotta Cube Pot - Set of 2</p>	<p>Save £9</p> <p>30cm Fibrecotta Medium Cement Cube Pot</p>	<p>23cm Fibrecotta Small Sand Cube Pot</p>

£35.99

✓ In Stock



3 reviews

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£30.99

✓ In Stock

New

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£24.99

✓ In Stock

Stock currently supplied by Howard Tenens



2 reviews

Quantity in stock: 2

Last stock update: 2020-03-28 14:11:56

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Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information and help for our customers.

[Click here for our latest updates](#)



June Gardening Jobs



With the longest days in the year, June means lots of light and lots of growth in your garden. Read on for a few key jobs you can do this month to help achieve a beautiful and abundant outdoors.

General Gardening Jobs

- **Plant summer beds:** take this opportunity to plant in your summer bedding plants so they can take full advantage of the extra hours of light in June.
- **Water your lawn:** an inch of water once per week will keep your grass green.
- **Control weeds:** use a handheld fork to remove weeds as they appear.

[Read More](#)



Planting Advice

- **Protect from pests:** a spray bottle filled with a simple solution of water and a little washing-up liquid can deal with most common pests.





- **Grow sunflowers:** now is a great time to grow sunflowers from seed; a fun project for getting the kids involved with the outdoors.
- **Sow Nigella seeds:** unusual looking flowers that can fill an area of your garden with charming blue whilst providing pollen for bees and butterflies.

[Read More](#)



Wildlife Care

- **Top up birdbaths:** keep your birdbath topped up to provide a place to drink, wash and cool down.
- **Be careful trimming hedges:** hedges could still house nests with chicks so be careful or avoid cutting for the month
- **Go wild:** letting a small part of your lawn to grow wild will be incredibly beneficial for all sorts of wildlife. It will provide a habitat for insects which in turn will support the growth of birds.

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June Gardening Jobs

[Read more](#)



June Allotment Jobs

[Read more](#)



Changing Garden of Summer

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as fast as we can



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**ON SELECTED
LAWN CARE**



Your lawn is the base of your garden. At this time of year, it is actively growing and requires maintenance in order to retain its vigour. We are currently offering up to 22% off selected lawn edging, so make sure to check out our sale to give your lawn some TLC.

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Essentials...*

**SAVE UP
TO 22%**



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- Children's Wellington Boots

Style

- Tall Boots
- Short Boots
- Ankle Boots
- Low Shoes
- Clogs

Arctic Weekend Black Short Ladies Wellington Boots Sizes by Muck Boot - Sizes 3-9

Code: CF0629



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New

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- Ladies' Size 7 £94.99 In Stock
- Ladies' Size 8 £94.99 In Stock
- Ladies' Size 9 £94.99 In Stock

£94.99

Quantity 1



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Specifications

- Style : Arctic Weekend
- Colour : Black
- Sizes : UK 3-9 (Select size at top of page)

The Arctic Weekend is a soft, supple and slimming all-weather Wellington made to survive the rigours of an outdoor lifestyle. This Wellington is insulated with a fleece lining that feels comfortable in temperatures as low as -30 ° making this the perfect winter accessory, whether it's walking the dog or working outdoors.

Comfort and durability are the signature feature of Muckboot footwear, and the Arctic Weekend carries that hallmark of reliable design. The outside of the boot is lined with 4mm thick Neoprene that works with a flex-foam insole to mould to the unique shape of your foot - giving you blister free comfort in even the most frigid conditions.

Cleaning

This boot cleans easily with a spray of water or gentle scrubbing with soap and water. The rubber can be conditioned with wax polish, Armor All® or liquid detergent. It is not recommended to use conditioners on the outsole as this may cause it to become slick in wet or icy conditions.





Muckboot



Muck Boot is a company that holds itself to the standard of providing comfort and quality that exceeds expectation. Opening in 1999 with the sole purpose of producing the most comfortable, high-performance footwear, the Muck Boot name is now synonymous with quality. Over the last two decades, the company has never let go of its main ideal - to provide 100% waterproof footwear that is designed to stand up to the tough conditions of an outdoor lifestyle.



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* Saving when compared to items sold separately.

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Spring Into

THE NEW YEAR



Winter tends to be the quieter season when it comes to your garden. However, now is a great time to get ready for spring. Here are some ways you can make sure you're all-set for next season.

Save 20%



Now is a great time to plan and purchase your plants for next year. Our 2m Mature Wisteria Plant produces drooping clusters of fragrant lilac flowers and is ideal for growing against a wall.

SHOP PLANTS

Save up to 20%

Planters are a quick and easy way to add style and extra growing space to your garden. The clean lines of our Zinc Galvanised Black Trough Planter contrast well with bamboo, phormiums, and grasses.



SHOP PLANTERS



SHOP
LAWN CARE

Now the plants are dormant, it's a great time to get your lawn sorted. Our Roman Stone Garden Edging is made from recycled car tyres for a lightweight eco-friendly alternative to concrete.

Take the time to organise your garden shed. Recycle anything you no longer use, and order any new tools you need. Our Garden Life Hand Trowel is a fantastic compact tool.



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to 20%



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A patio heater is great for hosting gatherings outdoors during the unpredictable British summer. The Freestanding Electric Quartz Bulb Patio Heater offers a choice of three heating settings and an adjustable height.

Prepare for those garden parties by stocking up on outdoor lighting now. Our solar-powered Eureka Retro Lightbulb String Lights automatically illuminate at night and have a stunning vintage look.



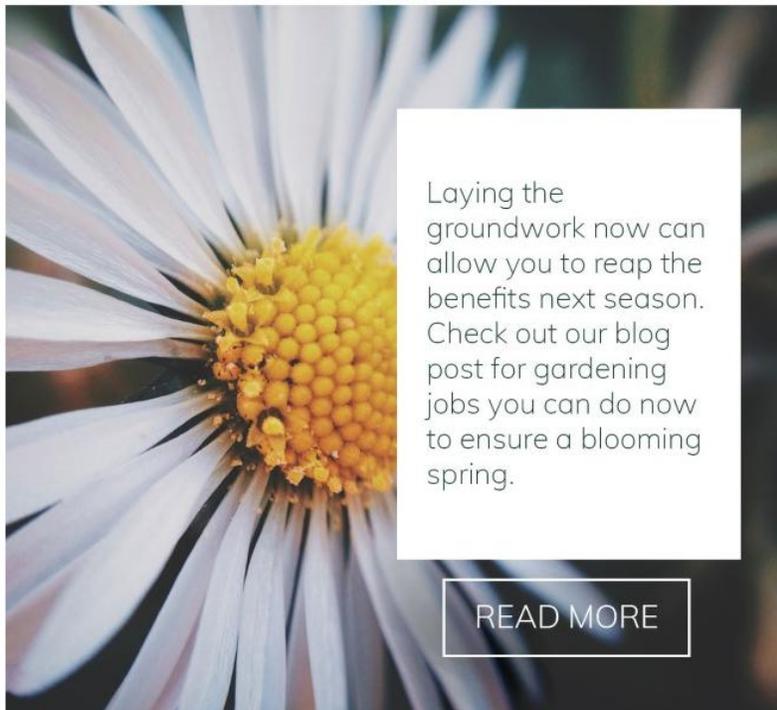
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LIGHTING



Now is a great time to buy outdoor furniture, so it's ready to relax on once the weather turns warmer. Our Sherbourne 7 Seater Garden Corner Sofa is perfect for hosting guests.

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FURNITURE



Laying the groundwork now can allow you to reap the benefits next season. Check out our blog post for gardening jobs you can do now to ensure a blooming spring.

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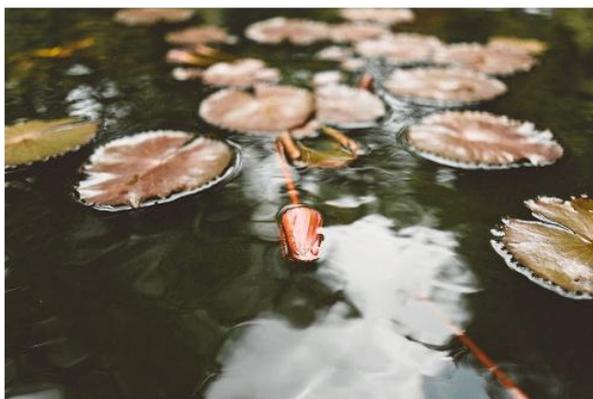
GARDENING, GARDENING YEAR, GARDENS, GARY, HOW TO, PLANTS • September 27, 2019

What to do in the garden this October



The September heat is fading, and Autumn is in full swing. As it gets colder, the trees begin to change and nature becomes gold for a few months. We have put together a list of the essential gardening jobs for October to help you make the most out of the transitional season in your garden.

General



- Mulch the borders with compost if not done in the spring to boost the quality of your soil and help it retain water and nutrients during the colder months.
- Continue to tidy borders of weeds and leaves. These will become slippery over winter, but will also be harder to remove once the soil freezes.
- Apply autumn lawn feed. These specialised feeds help to fortify your lawn from frost and icy conditions.
- Cut back perennials that have died down.
- Renovate old lawns or create new grass areas by laying turf. By doing this now you encourage root growth instead of leaf growth which allows your grass to survive the winter, and cuts down on and mowing in the cold

SEARCH

WELCOME TO THE PRIMROSE BLOG

You'll find all the tips, guides and inspiration you need to make your garden beautiful here and everything you'll need to make your vision a reality at Primrose.co.uk.

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A garden is the greatest of human pleasures and the greatest refreshment of the spirits of man.
- Francis Bacon

ARCHIVES

NEWSLETTER

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Animals



- Refill Feeders regularly This will help late migratory birds on their way, but also provide a constant food source for wintering birds. See our range of bird feeds [here](#).
- Install insect hotels. This is the easiest time of year to find the raw materials you need to build an insect hotel. By doing it now you'll also have it ready for the Insects try to get away from the cold.

Plants



- Remove fallen leaves from roses to prevent blackspot – a fungal disease that can spread quickly to your whole rose garden.
- Pot up your herbs and take them inside, either to a frost-free greenhouse or windowsill.
- Move tender plants, including aquatic ones, into a greenhouse or conservatory
- Bring potted tropical plants inside, including bananas, pineapple lilies (eucomis) and brugmansias.

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PRIMROSE GARDENS

Budding to share your garden with the world? Create a profile on [Primrose Gardens](#) and upload photos as your garden changes through the seasons.



- Begin planting garlic for a good summer harvest.
- Apply fleece to late season crops when frost is forecast
- Harvest apples, pears, grapes and nuts

Greenhouse



- Clean out the greenhouse to get rid of debris that can harbor overwintering pests
- Attach guttering to the greenhouse and install a water butt, to make good use of autumn rain. You can reuse this water elsewhere in the garden, it also discourages water from freezing on the greenhouse
- Wash greenhouse glazing to let in as much of the weaker autumn daylight as possible. This will keep your plants healthy as well as warm during the cold winter months.

It's a busy time of the gardening year, but putting in some hard work now will give you great results in spring. Let us know what your up to on [social media](#)



Gary works in the Primrose product loading team, writing product descriptions and other copy. With seven years as a professional chef under his belt, he can usually be found experimenting in the kitchen or sat reading a book.

[See all of Gary's posts.](#)



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A whole host of species can be grown in containers. But if you're stuck on what to grow we've created a guide on the best plans and seeds for container growing.



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PRIMROSE PLANTING GUIDE

Your new plant is here and now it's time to get it settled in!

We've condensed 15 years worth of gardening knowhow into this tiny booklet filled with planting and care tips to help welcome your plant to its new home.

ARRIVAL

CHECKLIST

It is important to know what to do first when your plant arrives. This handy checklist covers all the essential steps you need to follow before it can take pride of place in your garden.

- **Unpack Carefully**

You may need to use scissors to cut open the box your plant arrives in. Do this carefully to avoid causing damage

- **Plant as soon as you can**

We recommend planting your bare root plant as close to delivery as possible to allow your new plant more time to establish itself. Potted plants can be kept for several weeks without a problem

- **Water on arrival**

The journey can sometimes wear your plants out. If they look a bit tired when you open the box, don't worry, a good watering will soon revitalize them



ORDERING PLANTS ONLINE

Delivering plants comes with its own set of unique challenges, so we've put a few points together to remember when receiving a plant in the post.

“The box is damaged!”

Don't worry, our boxes are designed to absorb the impacts of courier transport whilst protecting the plant inside.

“It's smaller than I thought...”

The size on our website is an estimate and includes the pot. If you bought your plant early in the year you might find that it is smaller. However, it will grow to the estimated size as the year continues.

“There's a broken branch!”

Occasionally plants do arrive with a few broken branches. This will not cause any lasting damage and you can simply prune the damaged sections to encourage healthy regrowth

“I haven't got everything...”

If you order multiple plants from us, there is a chance they will be dispatched from different nurseries and part of your order may arrive before the rest. If this happens, it's fine, the remainder won't be far behind

PREP IT

There are a number of factors to consider when choosing where to place your plant as this decision affects its future growth and wellbeing. Here's how to prep it for planting:



**YOU WILL
NEED
TO...**

Find the right light

Different varieties thrive in different levels of light, and this information can be found on the label that comes with your plant. Some of the terms can be a bit unclear, but here's what they mean.

Full sun:
at least 6
hours of sun daily

Part sun:
between 3-6 hours of
sun daily

Part shade:
3-6 hours of sun a day,
not safe in midday sun

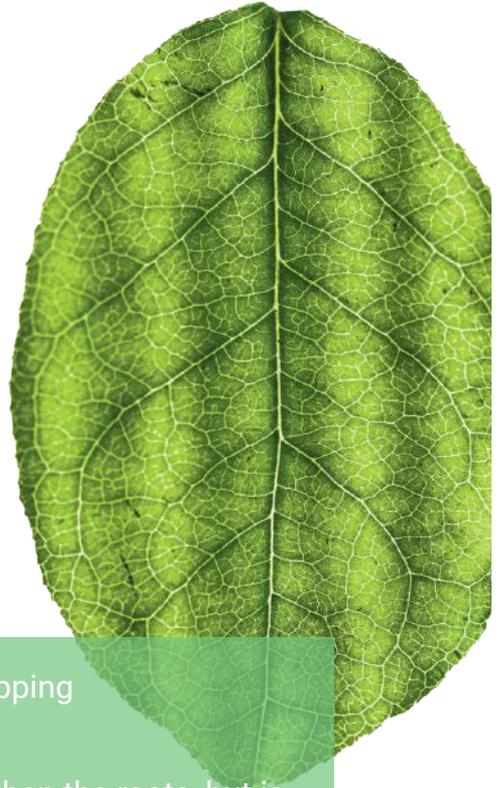
Full shade:
less than 3 hours
of sun a day

Find the right soil

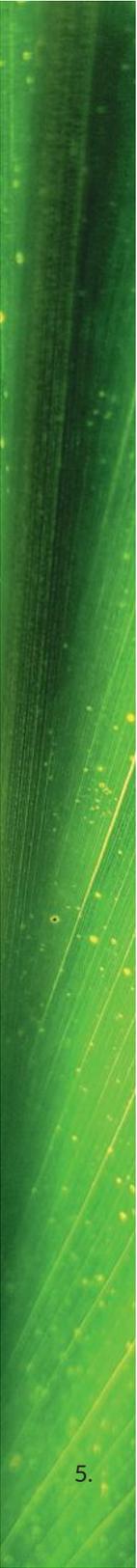
Most plants will be fine in your garden soil, however certain species (Rhododendrons, Camellias, Blueberries and Japanese Acers) prefer acidic soil and will need to be planted using ericaceous compost. Soil PH is hard to measure without specialist equipment so we would suggest keeping any acid-loving plants in pots or a specially created flower bed.

PLANT IT

Now your garden is ready, its time to introduce your plant. The way you plant will depend on if you are planting a bush, tree or shrub. All the specific details you will need for your tree will be on the information card with your delivery. Here are our key planting principles to help get you started.



1. Remove from container or fabric wrapping
2. Tease out and spread the roots
3. Dig a planting hole that is no deeper than the roots, but is up to three times the diameter of the root system
4. Break the soil around the planting hole with a fork
5. Scrape away the top layer of soil for container-grown plants until the point where the roots flare out is just below the surface
6. Place the plant in the planting hole to the same depth of the soil it comes in
7. Refill the planting hole carefully, placing soil between and around the roots
8. Firm the soil gently, avoiding compacting the soil into a hard mass



LET IT THRIVE

Water

Plants that are young or newly planted are especially vulnerable to drought. These need to be watered regularly until they are established

Mulch

Mulching is used to improve the soil around plants, but it also gives your garden a neat, tidy appearance and can reduce the amount of time spent on watering and weeding. It is important to remove and replace degraded mulch as well as expanding the area it covers as the plant grows

Fertilise

It's not always necessary to fertilise your plants unless they are in containers. The nutrients in isolated soil are not replenished naturally so needs a helping hand. Adding fertiliser to your potted plants before the growing season will help to improve fruit yields

Remove dead leaves

Clear away dead leaves in Autumn to prevent the spread of disease

YOUR FAQs

- **Why does my plant have no leaves?**

Many of our plants are deciduous and will be bare for the first half of the year. Some plants may only begin producing leaves around May.

- **The ground is frozen and I can't plant my bare root tree?**

In winter deciduous plants are dormant and can survive for significant periods without water and nutrients. Bare root plants are best stored in a cold outbuilding away from direct sunlight with their roots in water with added liquid fertiliser.

- **Can my tree be planted in a pot?**

Any tree can be grown in a round or square container as long as it hasn't already outgrown it. Containers do restrict growth but your tree will adapt to these conditions.

- **Will my tree bear fruit this year?**

Fruiting time is influenced by the species, variety, rootstock and age of the tree. With most of our trees, you can expect fruit within a year of planting.

- **Why does my bamboo look tired and dry?**

Bamboo plants are incredibly resilient but are easily stressed. It is completely normal for them to arrive looking a little dishevelled with some brown leaves. They can struggle in small production pots but once they are planted and have had a good watering they should bounce back quickly. For the best results, make sure you feed them in spring and autumn. It is important to remember that they are semi-deciduous, so their leaves will turn brown and shed throughout the year.



VISIT THE PLANT ADVICE HUB

Why not pay a visit to our new Plant Advice Hub? With 100s of how-to-guides and articles covering everything from improving your harvest to getting rid of pests, it's your go-to destination for gardening success.

www.primrose.co.uk/-c-14406.html

Or contact us at:

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AWNING CARE

Enjoy your outdoor space for longer with our simple care steps below to get the most out of your awning.



Step 1 Check Condition

Though waterproof and UV protected, shades can wear and tear. Check



need replacing. Check yours to see how it's looking; maybe it's time to try a new colour? Shop our range of replacement shades now.

[Shop Replacements](#)

Step 2 Clean

A quick clean is the easiest way to keep your awning looking fresh. Our easy to use spray cleaner helps get the most from your awning fabric throughout the whole year.

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Step 3 Cover

Extend the life of your awning significantly with a cover. Our storage bags are the best way to keep your awning in pristine condition throughout autumn and winter.

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Still Enjoying Your Time Outdoors?

We stock a variety of side panels so you can add further protection from the weather; which means more time doing what you love!

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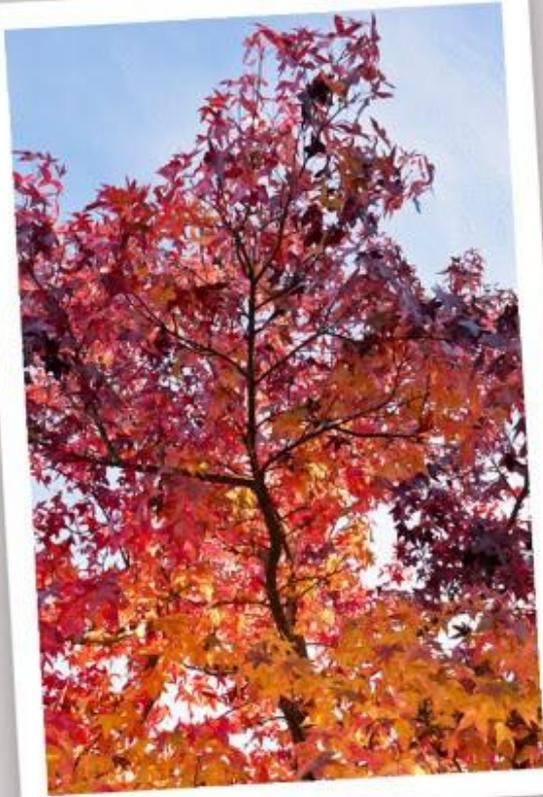


Heaters Plants **Clearance**

Autumn Colour

There may be less sunshine, but the harvest season brings with it an array of beautiful colours. Before the leaves fall from the trees, the colours transition, creating a beautiful display of reds, oranges, and even purples. Here are some of the trees that provide the richest autumn colours, so you can add some gorgeous tones to your garden this season.

When autumn arrives, the



When autumn arrives, the delicate green leaves of the **sweet gum tree** turn marvellous shades of scarlet, orange, yellow, and purple. Despite their spiky seed pods, some plant them purely to enjoy the spectacular scenery that lasts until early winter. Our **5ft Sweet Gum Tree** makes a great home for birds, squirrels, and pollinating insects.

[Shop Now](#)

Known as “jewels of the landscape”, **crabapple trees** are a symbol of fertility and associated with love and marriage. Their small, red fruits create a stunning display during the autumn months, and can be used to create jellies or even added to cider. The colour of the foliage varies depending on the species, however our **Toringo Aros Crabapple Tree** provides a beautiful dark red and maroon spectacle.

[Shop Now](#)



The red maple tree gets its



name from its striking red foliage. Red flower buds form on the new red twigs and leaf stems during the winter, which open into showy red flowers during spring, after which red-coloured fruit forms and a brilliant red leaves show throughout autumn.

Our **October Glory Red Maple Tree** has a dense round-headed form and holds its leaves until quite late in the year so you can enjoy the striking red display for longer.

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[Shop Autumn Colour](#)



If **crabapple trees** had an alternative name it should be the utility tree, as you get unmatched value from a single tree. They are both ornamental and fruiting, producing wonderful floriferous displays and versatile fruit. Find out more about crabapple trees, the different varieties, and how to grow them in our in-depth guide.

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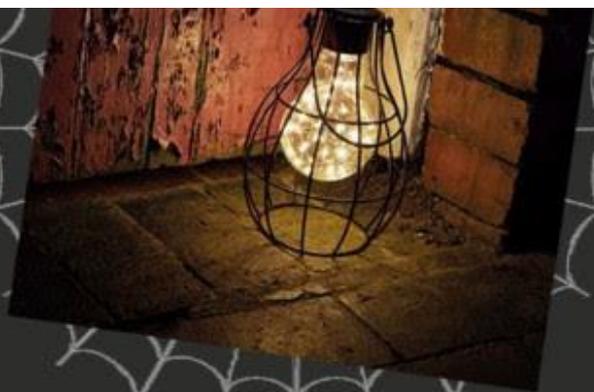
Halloween Preparation

Whether you're having a party or just getting in the spirit, make your Halloween extra spooky this year with these top tips

Light The Outside



Conjure up a magical display with some outdoor lighting this year. Why not wrap a tree in halloween colours or lead trick or treaters up your path with a trail of pale ghostlights.



Shop Lighting



The Best Apples For Bobbing

Did you know that experts recognise the Gala apple as the best apple to use in this traditional Halloween game?

Pumpkin Carving Tips

1. Choose the right shape to match your design
2. Make sure you have a suitable knife
3. The bottom is easier to open than the top



4. Scoop out as much of the flesh as possible, it'll make the carving easier

5. Use string lights instead of candles to get different lighting effects



Turn Up The Heat

Are you afraid of the dark? Set a spooky scene this halloween with flickering flames, dancing shadows, and fireside ghost stories



[Shop Fire Pits](#)



Easy Pumpkin Pie Recipe

INGREDIENTS:

425g Pureed pumpkin
180ml Full fat coconut milk
150g Brown sugar
32g Cornstarch
60ml Maple syrup

METHOD:

1. Preheat oven to 180°C
2. Add the filling ingredients to a blender, blend until smooth
3. Add to your pie crust
4. Bake for 60 minutes
5. Set in fridge overnight

1tsp Vanilla extract
3tsp Pumpkin pie spice
½ tsp salt
Vegan pie crust,
uncooked

6. Serve

It's All An Illusion

Turn your garden walls into a spooky entrance to another world, trick your guests into taking a look. Will they be brave enough? Dress your illusion mirror with artificial spider webs for added effect.



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and sustainable way. Everyone should have the chance to experience the benefits that plants bring to our lives, and we have put a lot of effort into making sure that all of our products are easy to grow, even for beginners.

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Our 100% germination guarantee ensures growing success, and our fully recyclable packaging leaves no waste. The kit comes with everything you need to grow your own and would be a great gift for the novice and experienced grower alike.

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GROW ME

GROW ME



GROW ME

GROW ME



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Christmas



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everyone at

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We love seeing what you do with our products, and you have achieved some amazing things this year. Here are some of our favourites. Join us on Facebook or Instagram to view more.





Thank You For
Shopping With Us,
& We Hope To See You
Again In 2020



Why not start
the New Year
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Winter
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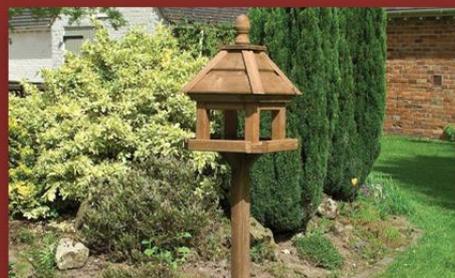
The winter season can be tough for wild animals

The winter season can be tough for wild animals. Many species are on the lookout for a safe space to hibernate in, and those that don't have to cope with harsh weather and often struggle to find food. However, we have the tools you need to transform your garden into a haven for these captivating creatures to help them withstand the cold. Find out more about the wonderful wildlife you can welcome in this winter.

Away with the Birds

When the weather gets colder, it is harder for birds to find food in the wild. So make sure to lend a helping hand with one of our bird tables or bird feeders. Welcoming these feathered wildlife in your garden can also help keep pest numbers down, so make sure to keep your feeders stocked up. Our Large Bampton Bird Table makes a stunning addition to your garden and the copper verdigris roof keeps the food dry.

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Bird Feeder

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Lechlade Wooden
Bird Table

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Hedgehog havens

The winter season means hibernation time for hedgehogs and other small creatures. So make sure to offer them a safe refuge with one of our hedgehog homes. These homely sanctuaries offer these adorable spiky critters a warm and cosy refuge from the cold weather and predators.

[SHOP HEDGEHOG CARE](#)





Hedgehog Haus
Hogitat

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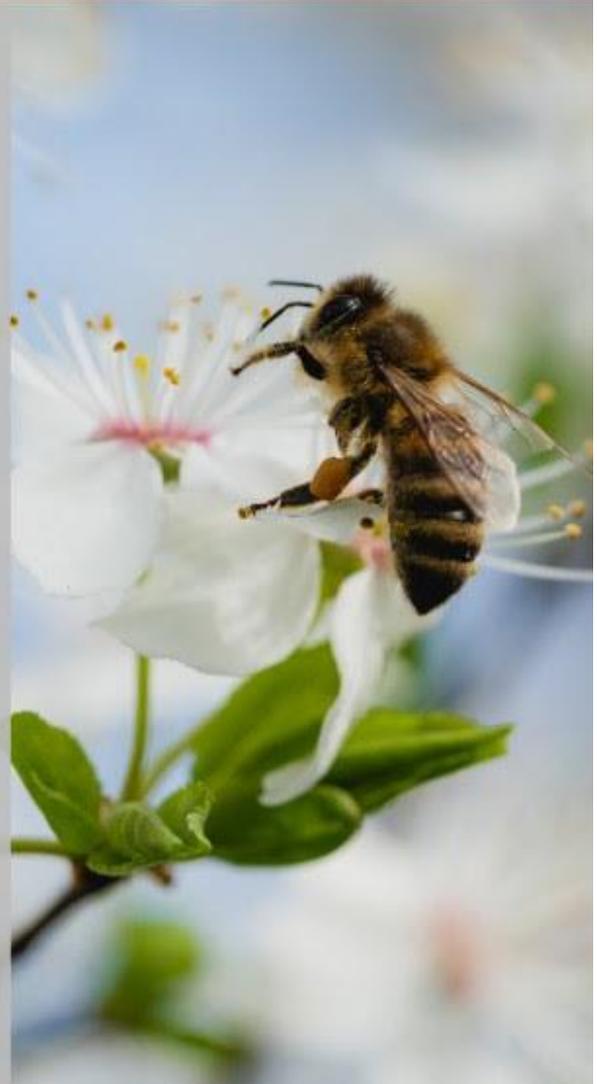
Hogilo Hedgehog
Home

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The bee's knees

As there is less pollinating to do, many species of bee hibernate over the winter, or huddle together in the hive to keep warm. To attract these wonderful insects into your garden ready for summertime, invest in one of our bee houses to offer a safe refuge from the cold. Make sure to place in a cool dry area to protect from the rain and frost.

[SHOP BEE CONSERVATION](#)





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How to care
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CURRENT ISSUES, FLOWERS, GARY • November 7, 2018

Why the Poppy is Our Symbol of Remembrance



On the eleventh of November 1918, France fell silent as men all over Europe put down rifles and stepped out of trenches – the world began to slowly awake from a five-year nightmare: millions were dead, hundreds of thousands injured and the world map changed forever. One hundred years on, the symbol most synonymous with the chaos of the First World War is not the stone crosses that sit on village greens across the country, but a small red flower.



Every year, around the start of November, the poppy begins to appear on the coats and jackets of almost everyone you walk past on the street. These little paper flowers are one of the key markers of the year and have become an integral part of how we remember those who have died in conflict. But why has this symbol become so prevalent?

The plant was a cornerstone of the British **Opium Trade** and the **Wars it caused**, but at this time it was merely a crop plant and only became associated with conflict during the Napoleonic wars.

The history of our current relationship with the poppy begins on the 3rd of May 1915, during the second battle of Ypres. John McCrae was an officer in the Canadian expeditionary force, and he had just presided over the funeral of a close friend. As he sat on the back of an ambulance he began writing the poem that would become "In Flanders Fields": one of the best-known pieces in the cannon of wartime poetry. It is this poem that starts the story of the poppy as we know it today.

Much poetry from this time in the war makes

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Each poem from this time in the war makes reference to the poppy. The small red flower was a welcome burst of colour amongst grey upturned earth and a reminder that a world beyond no man's land existed. The summer of 1915 saw an explosion of the flowers across the newly fertilized battlefields of France. The irony that all this new life came from their fallen comrades was not lost on the soldiers. To them, the millions of flowers that sprouted that summer were a symbol of hope at a time when attitudes in the trenches were changing. The chivalric dreams of unready teenagers were giving way to the realities of war and its horrors. The melancholy poems that poured out of the front at the time track this seachange in attitudes.



John McCrae

McCrae's poem was published in Canada a few months later and it quickly took hold in the Canadian psyche as a symbol of remembrance. The poppy was such an important aspect of National mourning at the time that in 1918 – three days before the end of the war – Professor **Moina Michael** vowed to wear a poppy as a private symbol of remembrance, and did so for many years.



After the war, Moina became a teacher to disabled veterans and soon found that many of them were struggling financially as they were unable to work. In an effort to help, Moina began selling silk poppies to raise funds and the practice was soon adopted by the British Legion Appeal Fund (later **The Royal British Legion**). 1921 saw the first poppy appeal in the UK, and since then it has been held every year; raising money to help veterans and those affected by war. 2018 marks the centenary of the armistice and the poppy is still one of the most recognisable signs of remembrance for many around the world.



Gary works in the Primrose product loading team, writing product descriptions and other copy. With seven years as a professional chef under his belt, he can usually be found experimenting in the kitchen or sat reading a book.

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SPRING HAS ARRIVED!



It's a month of transitions. The garden may get its first burst of colour from spring bulbs, wildlife becomes active with birds building nests and hedgehogs coming out of hibernation. Discover the key tasks needed this March with our guide to your spring garden.

SUMMER FLOWERING BULBS



Take encouragement from the colours of spring to begin planting your summer bulbs. Planting now will give your garden plenty of colour in the height of summer.



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LAWN CARE





If a pristine lawn is your pride and joy now is the time to start mowing the grass; introduce an extra special finish courtesy of our lawn edging.

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FRUIT TREES

Take a step towards the good life with your own fruit-bearing tree.



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GROWING YOUR OWN POTATOES

One of the easiest and most versatile options to get started with growing your own veg; we stock a great range of potatoes that can be planted now in time for summer.

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VEG SEEDS



VEG SEEDS

The beginnings of your own vegetable patch; whether it's an entire bed, a trough planter or a single pot you can have some growing success with our range of seeds.



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ANIMALS, BIRDS, CONSERVATION, GARDENING YEAR, GARY, WILDLIFE • September 19, 2018

The Changing Garden of Autumn



As the nights become colder and trees begin to shed their leaves on damp mornings, it becomes clear that the cycle of the seasons has once again turned. Whereas spring is the season of new life and growth, autumn is a time of preparation and winding down for both animal and plant life. The signs of the season are well known to all of us and are easily noticed whenever we go outside, but we can quite easily miss the small changes that take place in our gardens. So, what changes can the penultimate season of the year bring to the microhabitat that is your garden?

Every garden is unique and the changes that occur throughout autumn will be different to each one, but no matter where you are there are some things that you will always be able to see. Around the start of September, you will start noticing the obvious signs of autumn: the leaves will start turning from green to gold and you will see flocks of birds leaving for warmer climates. But if you pay slightly more attention, both plant and animal life will be making subtle changes that betray a natural world in flux.

New Birds

If you have a **bird-friendly garden**, the start of the season will seem to be a bit of a dead zone as the skies fill with flocks of birds migrating to warmer climates for the winter. It can be tempting to pack away the bird feeders and seeds when you start seeing less activity in your garden. But if you keep up with your normal routine you will start to see some new friends in your garden as those bird species that come to the UK for winter start to appear. By late September you will start to see new species outside your kitchen window. Look out for :

- Knots
- Fieldfares
- Short eared owls

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- Redwings
- Waxwings

As these newcomers fill your garden, look out for **new behaviours** in both the new and native species.



Fruits and Nuts

Spring is the season we most associate with new life, but for the plants in your garden, mid-August is when the prep starts. It is around this time of the year that you will start to see fruits, nuts and berries ripening just as animal species are starting to collect food for the winter. This timing is not coincidental, by providing food, the plants give the animal species the ability to survive through the winter, and in return, the hard work of dispersing seeds is taken care of by the animals as they continue to search for food.

Fungal Life

Fungi thrive when the warmth of summer and the damp of autumn come together around September. Just as your brambles and trees start to produce fruit, so does the fungal life in your garden. The majority of a fungal organism exists below the ground, however, when the time comes to spore, you will begin to see the fruit of the fungus (the mushroom) begin to sprout. These growths will appear in damp shaded areas. The colours and shapes of these mushrooms are interesting to look at and if you have a guidebook there is a lot to be learned. Just be careful not to touch them without identifying them first, of the over 3,000 species native to the UK only about 50 are non-poisonous.



Increased Animal Activity

Many species hibernate through the winter. To prepare for the long sleep, hibernating species gorge themselves on insects, berries and nuts in the months before the frosts start. As trees begin to fruit, you will inevitably begin to notice an increase in squirrel activity in your garden. You will either see them raiding

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your garden for everything you have or you will start finding acorns and nuts in weird places around your garden as it becomes a storehouse for the winter.

Hedgehogs may also become a more common sight as they prepare to hibernate, unlike squirrels and dormice these spiky creatures may need a little extra help when it comes to getting prepped. There are a **few ways that you can help** like putting out dog food and water or putting a **Hogitat** in your garden

For those of you with rural gardens, you may start to see a whole range of new and interesting behaviours as some animals will start looking for mates at this time of year and you may see deers rutting or birds courting. Keep an eye out, you might be surprised at what you see.



There is a lot more to be discovered in the autumn than you may think. This list is not exhaustive, but it will give you some idea of what to look out for. Keep your eyes open, the changes are subtle, but they will be happening all around you.



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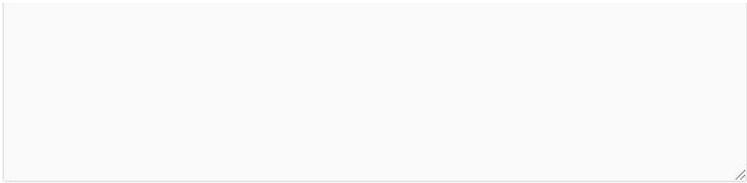
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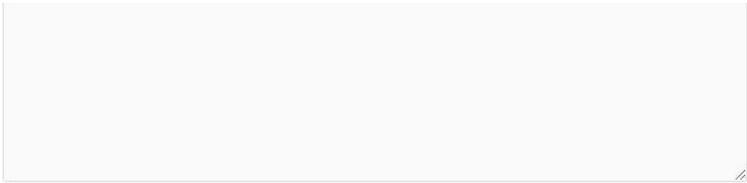
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DECORATION, GARDEN FURNITURE, GARY, HOW TO • November 19, 2018

Wood Treatment in the Garden



We spend a lot of time and money making our gardens look great. Wooden furniture and fittings are some of the most versatile and popular methods of garden decoration in the UK, but like any natural product, a little maintenance is needed to ensure that all your time and effort hasn't been put to waste.

What happens if I don't look after my wood?

Wooden furniture can last for years if looked after properly, but like any natural product, its quality can be affected by the weather. Most people will first see the decline in quality in the spring when they begin to use their outside spaces again and assume that the damage was done during the winter. Whilst the winter weather does cause most of the damage, it's only because of conditions in the summer; a long, hot season of bright sunshine and occasional high humidity and showers can cause a lot of strain on the fibres in the wood. This strain makes it more likely that a combination of water and cold in the winter will cause either mould or mildew to form, which causes weaknesses and rot in the wood.

How often should I treat wood?

Treating your wooden products should be a priority, and depending on your local conditions and wood type this may need to be done from once every 3 months, to once every 12 months. Failure to do this may lead to decay and damage caused by exposure to rain and the elements.



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Preservation – the basic method

The key to wood preservation is the prevention of water getting into the wood. There are a few key steps in achieving this and this method can be applied to furniture, fence panels, sheds and exterior wooden window frames. These steps can be undertaken at any point in the year and should be done in as dry conditions as possible.

Step 1 – Clean your surface: Over the summer, your furniture will naturally accumulate a layer of dirt and residue. This detritus not only looks bad, but it can be a carrier of moulds and spores that can seep into and destroy the wood. To do this, simply wipe down your furniture with a damp cloth and some soapy water. Be thorough and get into all cracks and crevices, particularly screw holes and hinges. Larger items like fence panels and sheds may be cleaned with a [pressure washer](#) – but always check if this method is suitable first.

Step 2 – Wax and varnish: To treat wood you will require [treatment products](#) specific to the material, be that teak, oak, pine or wicker. Apply it thoroughly, making sure you apply it to all sides of the furniture, over and under. Check with the manufacturer if you are unsure. Make sure the surface you are trying to treat is dry before applying your treatment product and follow the product's instructions.

Step 3 – Dry and cover: Once your furniture is clean and protected, allow it to dry, and find an appropriate place to let it sit over the winter.

- Sheds and garages are ideal places to put small items of wooden furniture as they are generally drier than the outdoor alternative.
- For those items too big for a shed, consider investing in a [cover](#) to keep them dry over the winter.
- Remove soft furnishings and cushions from the furniture and store these inside.

These are the basic steps that need to be taken to protect the wooden furnishings in your garden. Some other things you can do include putting pieces of wooden furniture on a pallet to allow for the circulation of air and reduced risk of standing groundwater and making sure that any covers are secured with bricks or pegs so they won't become uncovered by strong winds. If you take these steps every year you will be extending the life of your wooden furniture by about half. Some types of wood can be bought pre-treated, however, this does not mean that they do not need any further treatment once bought, and different types of treatment will require different levels of upkeep.





- **Untreated wood** – Untreated wood is the most susceptible to rot, fungi, and general weathering and should be treated as soon as possible with the method above.
- **Dip treated & paint stained** – Protection may begin to fade after 6-12 months and may offer little or no more protection against the weather than it originally did when purchased. This kind of wood can be treated at any time of the year and treatment should be reapplied about once a year.
- **Pressure treated** – If your wood has been pressure treated (a premium wood preservation technique), it will have longer lasting protection than a wood treated with a base layer preservative. Pressure treatment forces the preservatives into the lumber through the use of a vacuum. However, pressure treated wood is not waterproof; a weather-proofing top coat or base layer preservative is recommended every 12 months to fully protect timber through the winter months. However, it may not be best to treat pressure-treated timber straight away, as it needs to weathered (this should take 2-3 months).

Wood treatment is an often overlooked part of annual garden maintenance, but neglecting it can often lead to higher expenses in the future as you will more than likely have to replace damaged wood in a few years. The steps outlined here are the basics of preserving your furniture or wooden buildings. Some wooden products may require extra protection, and it is best to always check any instructions that came with the item. Either way looking after the wood in your garden properly and at the right time will mean when it comes to it, you will be able to spend long sunny days relaxing in your pristine garden.



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Graeme

April 19, 2019 at 10:08 am - Edit

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I have got sleepers and wooden slats. Currently they've not had any treatment. Just wondering what product you would

recommend?

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Plants make people happy

At Plant Theory, we believe everyone deserves to experience the benefits that plants bring to our lives. So our mission is to get everybody growing.

Turn the page for tips on caring for your Autumn veg, growing your own salad and an A-Z of herbs.



Anyone can be a kitchen gardener

Whether you've got a whole allotment or a patio patch, you can grow your own veg anywhere.



Some tips on getting your new arrival settled in...

Unpack your plant straight away and water

Read the plants label which will tell you its likes and dislikes

Don't forget to recycle your packaging!

Prepare your plot

Borders and raised beds

Break up the soil and ensure it's weed free

Container

Add a layer of stones in the base of the pot to provide drainage



Planting tips

Group plants with similar needs together

Give each plant room to grow in to

A bit of fertiliser or multipurpose compost goes a long way



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Autumn Veggie care tips



Root vegetables



Beetroot

Plant 10cm apart in well-draining soil. Water regularly and harvest before there are heavy frosts. You may find several seedlings growing in each plug, leave them for smaller beets or separate for larger ones.

Swede & Turnip

Plant 30cm apart in ridges into a light, loamy soil. Water regularly or when the soil begins to dry. You can harvest in around 3-4 months. Loosely drape horticultural fleece over plants to protect them from pigeons and other pests.



Brassicas



Broccoli

Plant 40cm apart in raised beds or veg plots. Cover with horticultural fleece or insect-proof mesh netting. You may need to stake plants as they grow taller and you should see sprouts in early Spring.

Cabbage Greens

Plant 30-40cm apart, in raised beds, or in a large container or grow bag. Cover with horticultural fleece or insect-proof mesh to protect from pests. Harvest Winter Greens whole from December to April when they reach a good size. Harvest Spring Greens whole from late February to April.



Grow Your Own Salad

The best part of growing your own food is making tasty meals from your harvest

The Essentials

Salad Leaves

Plant 10-15cm apart in beds or containers.. Harvest small amounts at a time by cutting the plant back or picking off the outer leaves.

Spring Onions

Plant 5-10cm apart in beds or containers. They can be pulled up and eaten when they look big enough, usually in the early days of Spring.

Lettuce

Plant 10-20cm apart in beds or containers. Winter Lettuces are best grown in a greenhouse/polytunnel, or under a cloche to protect from frost. We recommend carefully harvesting the outer leaves after a few weeks to encourage more leaves and prolong your harvest

Spinach

Plant 30cm apart in beds or grow in pot. They should be ready to harvest 6 weeks after planting. Regularly harvest the outer leaves to keep each plant going for longer.



Level Up

Chicory

Plant 15-20cm apart in beds or pots outside, Keep well weeded.
Harvest in late Autumn by cutting the stem with a knife.

Chard

Plant 30cm apart in beds or grow in a pot. They should be ready to harvest 6 weeks after planting. Regularly harvest the outer leaves to keep each plant going for longer.

Kale

Plant 40cm apart. Can be grown outside over Winter. Harvest leaves individually as the plant matures.

Pak Choi

Plant 20-30cm apart in beds or pots. Keep soil moist and harvest whole once the plant reaches full size in late Autumn/early Winter.

Flavour Kick

Peppers & Chillies

Grow in a heated greenhouse or polytunnel, or in pots on a sunny windowsill. Water regularly, but do not allow it to become waterlogged. Plants should be about to start or will be producing flowers/fruit on arrival in Autumn. Keep picking until they stop cropping.



Top Tip

Compost anything you don't use to reduce waste and give your plants the best chance to grow.



Herbs A-Z

Herbs are a kitchen garden essential, easy to grow and perfect for adding flavour to your dishes.

Bay

Can be grown in a pot or in the ground. Keep it well watered and add mulch in early Spring.

Chives & Garlic Chives

Grow in pots or beds. Keep them well watered. When cutting, leave about 5 cm of the stem for re-growth.

Dill

Plant 30cm apart in a sunny position. Keep well watered and harvest leaves when they are still young

Hyssop

Plant 45cm apart in a place with full sun. Pinch out growing tips to make it bushier. Cut back in early Spring.

Lemon Grass

Plant in a pot on a sunny windowsill or a sheltered, warm patio. Keep well watered.

Marjoram & Oregano

Plant in well-drained soil with lots of sun. Be sure to bring marjoram inside for the Winter.

Mint & Lemon Balm

Plant in containers in a shaded area. Continuously harvest during the summer to promote new growth.

Parsley

Benefits from rich, moist soil and partial shade. Harvest leaves for cooking before the parsley begins to bolt.

Rosemary

Plant in dry, well-drained, gritty soil. Try to avoid overwatering.

Sage

Plant in light dry soil with plenty of sun. Lightly prune after it has flowered in the Summer.





Tarragon

Grow in pots in the sun or partial shade. Remove flowering shoots as they appear to encourage growth.

Vietnamese Coriander

Grow in full sun or partial shade in moist but well-drained soil. Cut back and tidy up the plant in Winter.



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Autumn Pond Maintenance



For the life in your pond, autumn is a period of winding down after a busy summer. By the end of September, animal activity will have started to slow down and your plants will have completed their flowering and seeding. All this activity leaves a lot of detritus behind and now is the time to get started on the cleanup and get ready for the rest of the year.

Early – Late September: Protecting Your Pond

Leaves are a big problem for your pond as they start to fall from the trees and into the water. Too big a build up on the surface can cause oxygenation problems, and an overabundance of decomposing organic matter can throw off the ecological balance of the water (in extreme cases acidifying the water) making it dangerous for the life in your pond. Prevention is better than cure in cases like this and your first line of defence should always be a net or cover guard. In the case of a net, you will find that some leaves always get through, a few leaves won't be a problem but be sure to keep on top of it by skimming your pond with a net or a surface skimmer.

Late September – mid-October: Cleaning Your Pond

During spring and summer, your pond care regime should be focused on curbing the growth of microbes and algae in your pond, in Autumn, the focus moves to the cleaning of silt and debris that build up in the water as leaves, seeds and insects fall into the water.

You should be cleaning your pond regularly as a matter of course, but a thorough clean around mid-October (with a complete clean every 5 years) is essential for an easy start to spring. Not cleaning out your pond will result in a springtime mess of silt and debris that result in a bog rather than a pond, you are also risking a blanket weed and algae problem once the days start getting longer.

An effective and thorough clean should follow these steps:

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A garden is the greatest of human pleasures and the greatest refreshment of the spirits of man.
– Francis Bacon

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- Start by preparing a holding tank for your fish in a shady area. Make sure you use some of the pond water in your tank (unless it is overly cloudy)
- Drain the pond slowly: a pump is usually the easiest way of doing this, but use whatever method is best and easiest for you.
- As the water level goes down, remove fish from the pond as they become visible with a [dip net](#) and get them quickly into the holding tank.
- Do the same with any pond plants you come across – use this opportunity to re-pot plants if you need to. marginal (water's edge) plants will survive out of the pond as long as they are kept moist and shaded.
- Skim and leaves and detritus from the pond with a net. Make sure to place decaying plant material on the side of the pond, so any smaller creatures can return to the water before you throw them away.
- Scoop up excess silt from the pond and dispose of some of it (you can use this silt as a good fertilizer for your border plants) keep the rest in a safe place. You don't have to be overly paranoid about getting everything because you will be returning some of the collected silt anyway to re-establish microorganisms.
- Clean the liner with a scrubbing brush and water, bailing the dirty water out with a bucket (do not use soap)
- Return the saved silt and water to the pond. Refill the pond (preferably with rainwater), positioning plants as you go
- Carefully return fish and other creatures to the pond.

Prune plants of dead and excess leaves before returning to the water.

Mid-Late October: The Close Down – Preparing for winter



The later seasons of the year are the most shocking for pondlife, and you should use the tail end of autumn to make its life easier during winter. Giving your pond a headstart is pretty easy and you only need to take small actions to have a big effect.

The first changes you make should make are to plant life – start by moving your [marginal plants](#) to deeper waters to prevent them from freezing. Non-hardy plants like Water Hyacinths should ideally be removed from the water and kept in warm frost-free conditions until things start warming up.

The diet of your fish should also change around this time of year, wheat-germ-based foods are ideal for the winter months as they are easier for your fish to digest in colder conditions. Moving to this type food makes your fish produce waste with a reduced ammonia content, meaning it won't build up as quickly in the water whilst the ammonia eating microbes are dormant.

Your final task in preparing for winter is the closing down of your pond – this means closing down and shutting off all electrical pumps and UV clarifiers. This is an important step as pumps are likely to circulate cold water throughout the

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pond which can negatively affect the life inside it. Closing down your pond is a simple process, the basic steps are to:

- Disconnect the pump, filter and UV clarifier before water freezes
- Store UV clarifier indoors for protection
- Store filters indoors (if manufacturer's directions suggest)
- Purchase or have the pond de-icer ready for installation

Once done, you are all ready for winter and the unique challenges it presents. But until then there is plenty to be done in preparation. A pond can sometimes seem like a lot of work but come summer when the plants are in bloom and your fish are happily swimming in clear water you will be glad that you put the work in early.



Gary works in the Primrose product loading team, writing product descriptions and other copy. With seven years as a professional chef under his belt, he can usually be found experimenting in the kitchen or sat reading a book.

[See all of Gary's posts.](#)



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One Comment



Joan
Lacchin

November 10, 2018 at 11:33 am · [Edit](#)

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What very interesting & helpful reading, Thankyou! I am fairly new & had NishiKoi for over 6 yr's, & also a pump/filter, & heater which unfortunately the Beast from the East cracked the latter, As it was all shut down for several months after my fish mysteriously died all together,. I kept the pump working for the waterfall for therapeutic reasons, I have had 6 Koi bought for me (after all the cleaning youv'e suggested.My husband recently passed away & I would dearly love to keep the pump/filter with waterfall running as the sound of the running water is very therapeutic for me, Can you advise please. Regards Mrs Joan Lacchin

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