

# *September 2021*

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## *Raised Beds*

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# Sowing Hardy Annuals

A lot of my favourite hardy annuals can be sown late summer or early autumn and some will overwinter outside happily. The advantage of autumn sown annuals is that they put down a good root system over the winter and produce strong healthy plants which will bloom a little earlier than the same varieties sown in the spring. I have sowed a lot of my hardy annuals in the greenhouse already and some are planted out in the garden. Some will be kept in pots in the greenhouse over the winter. Overwintering hardy annuals outside is always a bit of a gamble as if we have a particularly hard winter they may not survive. I find that there are a lot of plants that will not mind cold temperatures, but they dislike being in wet soil for weeks on end. This is one of the reasons that I grow a lot of my flowers for cutting in raised beds as it is easier to ensure that the soil is well drained.

## Daffodil Bulbs

One job that I usually try to get done in September and have not managed to do this year is planting daffodil bulbs. I now have a lot of beautiful daffodils and narcissi naturalised in the less cultivated areas of my garden, but I like to trial some new varieties in pots each year. Unfortunately my order of daffodil bulbs was delayed this year, but they will be fine planted any time throughout October.

## Flowers of the Month

The arrangements in the photos are all from flowers cut during September. My dahlias were planted very late this year but they have started to bloom. My favourite sunflower, 'Valentine' has been amazingly prolific this year and my calendulas have also been especially good. Some of my roses were having a bit of a break earlier this month, but had a nice second flush of blooms towards the end of the month. How much longer I will have flowers to cut depends entirely on the weather. Some years I have been able to make up posies and bouquets throughout October and even early November but if we have a hard frost or strong autumn winds that will be the end of my flower season. We shall see what October brings!

