

October Garden Tasks

East Dean & Friston Gardening Club

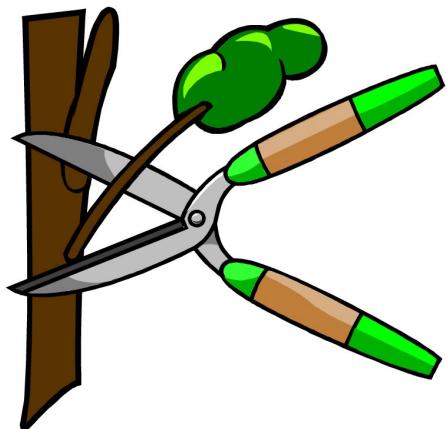
Sowing & Planting



- Plant spring bulbs
- Sow broad beans for early crops next year
- Sow hardy annuals if weather is mild
- Plant bare-root trees and shrubs
- Plant garlic and autumn onion sets
- Divide and replant perennials while soil is workable
- Continue sowing green manure on bare soil

Pruning & Cutting Back

- Prune climbing roses once flowering finishes
- Prune back summer-fruiting raspberries if not done
- Cut down faded perennials (or leave some for winter structure/wildlife)
- Remove dead, diseased, or damaged wood from shrubs and trees
- Lift and divide congested perennials (e.g. irises)



Harvesting



- Harvest apples, pears, quinces, medlars
- Gather remaining squash, pumpkins, and courgettes before frost
- Pick any late beans, tomatoes, or salad crops
- Collect seeds from flowers and vegetables
- Lift maincrop carrots and beetroot for storage

Watering & Feeding

- Water newly planted trees, shrubs, and bulbs if dry
- Reduce watering of houseplants
- Stop feeding most plants; let them rest for winter



Greenhouse



- Bring tender plants under cover before frost
- Clean greenhouse glass to maximise winter light
- Ventilate occasionally on mild days
- Check heaters are working for colder nights
- Sow winter salads or herbs under cover

Houseplants

- Reduce watering further as growth slows
- Keep plants away from cold draughts and radiators
- Check for pests as plants adjust to indoor life
- Clean leaves of dust



Lawn Care



- Keep mowing if grass is still growing, but at a higher setting
- Rake fallen leaves off lawns regularly
- Apply autumn lawn feed if not yet done
- Aerate compacted lawns if conditions allow
- Lay new turf early in the month if needed

General Maintenance

- Rake and collect fallen leaves to make leaf mould
- Net ponds to keep out leaves
- Clean and store garden furniture and tools
- Check ties and supports on young trees
- Empty and clean water butts if necessary
- Keep borders weed-free
- Plan winter protection for tender plants



And Finally...

- Wrap up warm, enjoy crisp autumn air, and admire autumn colours. A warm drink and a tidy garden are perfect companions!

