

East Dean & Friston Gardening Club

November Garden Tasks

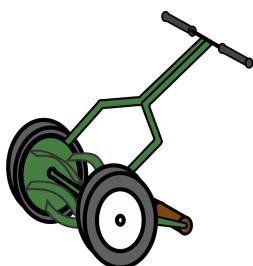


Flowers & Perennials

- Lift and store dahlias, cannas, gladioli after frosts; label by colour/variety.
- Cut back finished perennials; leave some seed heads (echinacea, rudbeckia) for wildlife.
- Plant spring bulbs (last call for tulips); aim for groups of 10–15 for impact.
- Mulch borders with compost/leafmould (~5 cm) to protect crowns and improve soil.

Roses, Shrubs & Trees

- Plant bare-root trees/roses/shrubs in well-prepared holes; water in.
- Prune tall rose stems by a third to reduce wind rock (hard prune in late winter).
- Check tree stakes & ties; loosen if tight, replace damaged.



Lawn

- Final light mow if growth continues; raise the mower height.
- Scarify/rake leaves off grass to prevent yellowing and moss.
- Edge lawns neatly to tidy borders.

Fruit & Veg

- Plant bare-root fruit (apples/pears/raspberries/blackcurrants).
- Protect brassicas from pigeons (netting) and check for caterpillars after mild spells.
- Mulch asparagus/rhubarb crowns; lift final root crops (parsnip, carrot, beet).
- Sow broad beans and peas under cloche in mild areas.



Greenhouse/Polytunnel

- Bring in tender plants (pelargoniums, fuchsias).
- Insulate with bubble wrap; check heaters and thermostats.
- Water sparingly; ventilate on mild, dry days to prevent botrytis.



Containers

- Switch to winter displays: violas, pansies, heuchera, skimmia, small conifers.
- Raise pots on feet; ensure drainage is clear.
- Top up with fresh compost + slow-release fertiliser for winter containers.



Houseplants

- Reduce watering; avoid cold draughts and cold windowsills at night.
- Increase humidity (pebble trays / grouping). Remove dead leaves to deter pests.

Wildlife & Ponds

- Net ponds for falling leaves; remove them before they sink.
- Clean bird feeders, offer high-energy food and fresh water; set up a hedgehog house if you have quiet corners.
- Leave a messy patch (pile of twigs/leaves) for overwintering insects.



Paths, Fences & Tools

- Pressure-wash/slip-proof paths and steps; treat algae/moss.
- Clean, sharpen, and oil tools; drain and store hoses.
- Check fences & sheds; treat timber on dry days.

Planning & Admin

- Review successes; note gaps for spring bulbs/perennials.
- Order bare-root hedging, seed catalogues, and manure/compost for winter mulching.
- Schedule PATIOS/STRUCTURES: book contractors before spring rush.



Leisure

- Take time to enjoy crisp autumn days.
- Sit back and appreciate the fruits of your labour.
- Watch wildlife preparing for winter from a cosy seat in the garden.