

August Garden Tasks

East Dean & Friston Gardening Club



Sowing & Planting

- Sow hardy salad crops: lettuce, radish, spring onions, land cress
- Plant crops for autumn and winter: spinach, chard, turnips
- Sow hardy annual flowers for next summer
- Plant autumn bulbs, blueberry bushes, and strawberry runners
- Order and plant: saffron crocus, kiwi, indoor bulbs
- Start greenhouse crops: potato tubers, paperwhite narcissus
- Take cuttings from herbs, houseplants (like African violets), and succulents (e.g., sedum)
- Sow green manure on empty soil to improve fertility and thwart weeds

Pruning & Cutting Back

- Trim back: lavender, climbing roses and perennials
- Prune: raspberries (after picking), grapevines (remove some leaves), wisteria, fruit trees
- Remove: dead flowers (e.g., lilies, dahlias), suckers on roses and trees
- Clear out spent annuals to prevent self-seeding
- Strim or mow wildflower areas
- Use secateurs (not hedge trimmers) for neat laurel hedge cutting



Harvesting



- Collect seeds from flowers and veg
- Pick regularly: beans, peas, tomatoes, courgettes, cucumbers
- Harvest maincrop potatoes when leaves turn yellow
- Gather herbs for drying or freezing
- Check fruit – pick when ripe and fully coloured

Watering & Feeding

- Water often – mornings or evenings are best
- Drip irrigation is a good option and usually exempt from hosepipe bans
- Feed: fruit, veg and flowering plants with high potash fertiliser



Greenhouse



- Dampen floors to keep air humid
- Use shading to keep plants cool
- Open vents and doors for good airflow
- Check for pests

Houseplants

- Water, feed, and clean leaves
- Check for pests
- Move plants outside for fresh air – but keep out of direct sun
- Repot if needed



Lawn Care

- Water (sprinklers allowed if not banned)
- Weed regularly
- Watch out for pests like chafer grubs or leatherjackets
 - Look for moss and treat early – scarify if needed
 - Mow, but don't cut more than one-third off the grass length at once

General Maintenance

- Weed between paving stones
- Get soil ready for new turf or grass seed (plant in Sept/Oct)
- Go on slug and snail patrol in the evenings
- Protect and treat wooden fences and sheds
- Repair anything that's broken
- Keep things clean – pests and diseases spread fast in summer heat



And Finally...

- Take a break! Grab a cup of coffee or tea (or something stronger), sit back and enjoy your beautiful garden.

