



**ELLENS GREEN AND RUDGWICK
GARDENING ASSOCIATION**
connecting communities since 1945

Gardening suggestions for November

Welcome to the new monthly gardening feature from EGRGA with the aim of encouraging you into the garden to give it a bit of love and attention (yes, even at this time of year) and to hopefully continue our aim of promoting horticulture and the encouragement of good cultivation.

If you would like to contribute to this section on the Rudgwick Magazine or ask garden related questions, we can be contacted via our website; also, for more information and how to become a member please go to www.gardenreg.org.

I hope you find these suggestions useful and look forward to any feedback so that future editions can be tailored to your needs.

Richard Haigh EGRGA Chairman

Clearing fallen leaves

One of the biggest and most important jobs of the year. Leaves left on lawns will cause patches of dead grass if not removed quickly enough. Leaves falling into ponds will rot and the build-up of decaying organic matter will lead to stagnant water and encourage the growth of blanket weed in the spring.

Winter protection for tender plants

Some commonly grown plants are not able to withstand our wet and cold winters without a bit of help. Ideally, they should be moved undercover somewhere frost free with a minimum temperature of 5C, if this is not possible, they should be protected. The best materials to use include horticultural fleece, hessian, bracken or straw. Avoid using plastics as plants need circulating air to avoid rotting.

Plant for winter colour

As the garden starts to look devoid of colour some planted containers can help brighten a dull corner. If spring flowering bulbs are included this will extend the life of the arrangement.

Now is a good time to get creative and with the garden centres open why not spoil yourself with an extra special or larger pot/container.

All containers need to be raised onto pot feet for the winter to prevent pots from being waterlogged and killing off the contents.

Other jobs to be getting on with

- Don't forget our feathered friends. Keep the feeders topped up and provide fresh water. Particularly during the winter months, clean out the birdfeeders regularly to prevent a build-up of mouldy food. The demise of the Greenfinch has been linked to the Trichomonas parasite which can be present in dirty feeders.
- Dispose of diseased plants and cuttings in your Acorn bin rather than trying to compost.
- Net winter crops such as brassicas and make sure the netting is tight enough to prevent damage by pigeons.
- Prune roses to an outward facing bud, if the rose is pot grown, prune enough to stop wind/root rock.
- Check tree ties and stakes, growing trees may need their ties loosening off and weak or rotten stakes replaced if still needed.
- Remove old/damaged leaves from hellebores to make way for the flowers.
- Tie wall shrubs and climbers onto their supports to protect them from wind damage. Any growth that refuses to be trained in this way can be pruned off.
- If the lawn is still growing and dry and firm enough cut to a minimum of 40 mm (1.5 inches). If the lawn isn't waterlogged carry on with scarification, aeration and top dressing but ensure you don't do this if frost is forecast.