

Gardening tips for January

Happy New (gardening) Year from EGRGA

January is in the middle of the gardening winter but as the days start to lengthen plants will start to grow.

Plan ahead

Start planning where and what you want to grow and order/buy seeds and plants. Buy seeds early before supplies get hard to find. Garden centres run out of all the best seeds very quickly! However, before rushing off to the nearest garden centre please have a look at **Calling Budding Vegetable Growers!** in this magazine for an innovative way to obtain vegetable seeds – particularly if you are new to gardening/growing your own.

Apple and Pear trees

There is still time to get this job done but don't leave it beyond mid-March. Prune now as the plants are still dormant. As soon as buds start showing any signs of spring then leave until next autumn.

Other jobs to be getting on with

- Keep weeding the garden borders. Do the same for the veg. patch before adding any surface dressing (see next point)
- If you have any compost or manure now is a good time to spread over the veg. patch or use to mulch the borders.
- Having spent the last 2 or 3 months keeping the lawn clear of leaves you may find earthworm casts sticking up all over the surface. This isn't a problem, just unsightly to some, the answer is to rake them to break them up and disperse over the lawn. A job best done when the casts are dry.
- Clean pots, seed trays and labels ready for planting.
- Remove slimy and/or green patches from patios and paving either by scrubbing with a stiff nylon broom or pressure washer if suitable.
- Keep putting food and water out for garden birds.
- Check the level of water in your fishpond particularly if there have been severe frosts as these can damage the pond lining. Always try to keep an area of surface free from ice.

For membership details and to ask garden related questions please go to our website www.gardenreg.org.

And as always, keep gardening.

Richard Haigh EGRGA Chairman