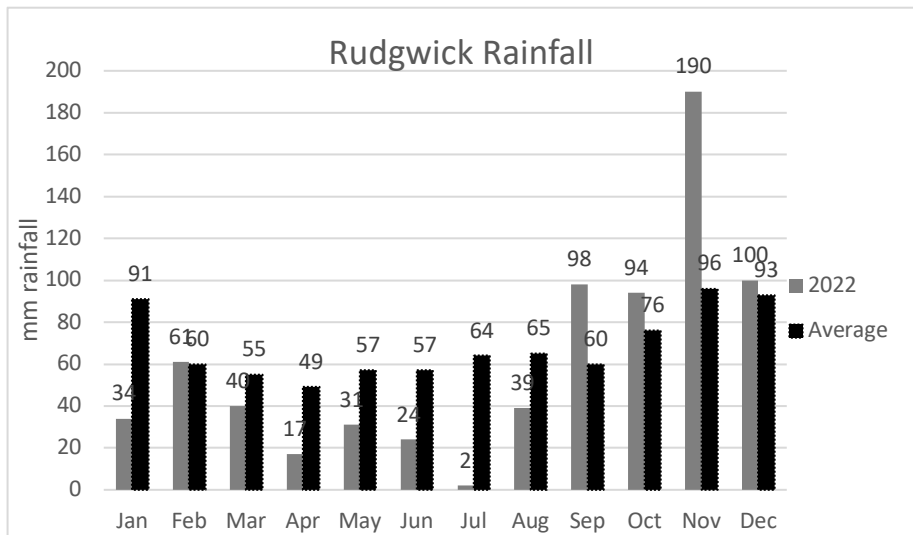


## Gardening tips for February

Time to start planning what you will be doing in the garden this year\*. While you think about that, when was the last time you cleaned or serviced your gardening tools? Now is a good time to give tools a good clean and oil and while you are at it, turn out the tool shed and give that the good clean that you meant to do 10 years ago! The green patio also needs attention. There are numerous patio cleaning products which need a good brushing in and washing off, alternatively reach for the jet washer but be careful. Whatever your patio is made of or how old it is affects how vigorous you can be with the force of the water. Adjust the pressure to give just enough to clean the surface rather than removing it.

Taking of water, 2022 appeared to be quite variable regarding how much or how little it rained, but was it really very different from normal? I've had a rain gauge since 2007 and the following table shows last year's rain by month and comparing this with my average since 2007. The year to August was very dry but since then, order seems to have been restored.

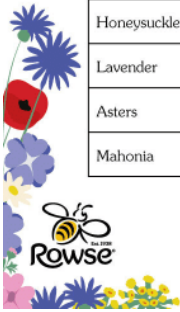


\* A suggestion regarding something you can do in the garden this year. How about planting for bees. It doesn't matter if your garden is a balcony, allotment, window box, pots and tubs or a swathe of green open space; with a bit of thought pollinators can benefit from a banquet of pollen and nectar right throughout the year. Choose plants with single, open flowers for easy access to the pollen and nectar. The following table reproduced by kind permission of Rowse Honey summarises quite nicely what to plant and when.



# A Year of Pollinator Friendly Flowers

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Hellebores												
Snowdrop												
Winter aconite												
Crocus												
Lungwort												
Pussy Willow												
Magnolia												
Peony												
Hawthorn												
Foxglove												
Marjoram												
Sedum												
Dahlias												
Honeysuckle												
Lavender												
Asters												
Mahonia												
	Winter			Spring			Summer			Autumn		



When to sow    
 When to plant    
 When it blooms

And finally, Covid was a terrible time for village clubs and societies so join something in 2023 and get active. One I can recommend is the Ellens Green and Rudgwick Gardening Association. For membership details and to ask garden related questions please go to our website [www.gardenreg.org](http://www.gardenreg.org).

Keep gardening.

Richard Haigh, EGRGA Gardening Correspondent