

Gardening tips for November

Has there ever been a gardening superhero? You know the type, Superman/Wonder Woman/Captain America et.al., their superhuman skills allowing them to sort out a miscellany of baddies. In the gardening world, TV gardening presenters may indeed be very accomplished and knowledgeable but the somewhat soporific nature of their musings provides great opportunity for gardening superheroes to transform our gardens at the blink of an eye. All your aquatic problems sorted by Pond Fish Pond - without you getting wet, Vegetable Man thought to be completely useless by the ladies of West Sussex but he can certainly show you his enormous marrows or Gardening Woman who just gets on with everything because it is Saturday morning and the newspaper has just arrived therefore the menfolk of Rudgwick won't be doing anything until they have read the paper cover to cover including the gardening section and decided not to bother.

On a recent walk (early October and 24 Celsius) I walked past a country house with a large garden with nothing in it other than lawn. The lawn was in good condition and was being mowed by a robot, minimal effort required by the owner therefore perfect conditions for my three gardening superheroes to get to work. While they are getting to grips with their blank canvass, here are a few tips for getting on with in November.

The Kitchen Garden

Remember crop rotation, now is the time to think back to last year or retrieve your plan to remind yourself what grew where last year, hopefully you can still remember for this year and decide what is going where next year. If Vegetable Man isn't available, as a reminder, I have included last year's crop rotation plan. So, for example, where you have planted potatoes this year, you may want to plant beans for next year &c.

Crop Rotation	Bed 1	Bed 2	Bed 3	Bed 4
Year 1	Potatoes, Courgette, Squash (Plant Leeks or Lettuce after lifting potatoes)	Roots	Brassicas	Legumes
Year 2	Legumes (any pea and bean variety)	Potatoes	Roots	Brassicas

Year 3	Brassicas (Cabbage, Broccoli, Cauliflower, Sprouts, Kale)	Legumes	Potatoes	Roots
Year 4	Roots (Carrots, Beetroot, Swede, Onions, Parsnips)	Brassicas	Legumes	Potatoes

The Flower Garden

Anything in pots may require attention. Pots with hardy plants that are being left in situ can be lifted onto suitable pot feet to aid drainage and therefore helping to prevent the compost freezing. Potted Dahlias, wait for the first frost to wither the top growth then uproot the plant, clean the tuberous root, put in container of dry compost and store somewhere cool and most importantly, frost free. Plant tulip bulbs in the now empty Dahlia pots making sure the bulbs are planted twice as deep as the size of the bulb.

The Water Garden

Leaves, leaves, leaves, where is Pond Fish Pond when you need him? If you can't find him, remove leaves from the pond before they break down over the winter months providing the perfect growing conditions for blanket weed next spring. Cut back and remove vigorous pond plants aiming for about half the pond surface to be clear.

Lawns

As above, leaves, leaves &c! Hopefully Gardening Woman will clear up fallen leaves, weed the borders, prune the shrubs, sweep the patio and just in time to put the kettle on and all without you noticing. Gardening Woman will also ensure the lawn has its last cut before winter making sure she leaves the grass about 50 mm long to over winter and will give the mower a well-earned clean up before putting away for the winter in her newly tidied shed.

Dream on!

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Keep gardening.

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