

TOP 10 TASKS THIS MONTH



Lis Wallace

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IN YOUR WEB BROWSER



- The grass will soon stop growing so cut it when you can and look forward to the last cut of the season. Then it will be time to get the mower serviced.
- Remove any fallen leaves from the lawn and use them to make soil conditioning leaf mould. Place a net over garden ponds but please check it regularly to make sure no frogs or other creatures become entangled.
- For early flowering next year now is the time to sow sweet peas. If you haven't already discovered them then do take a look at our root trainers. They're perfect for sweet peas and other long-rooted plants.
- Depending on where you live the first frosts can arrive during October so protect any tender plants. If you don't have space to bring them all under cover then invest in some fleece to wrap them up snug.
- Your summer hanging baskets will be looking sad by now so re-plant with bellis, polyanthus and pansies
- Spring flowering bulbs are still available to buy and to plant so make sure you have enough for a blaze of colour next year. Empty tubs are such a missed opportunity for colour!
- Don't be tempted to lift your dahlias until frost has blackened the stems. Then lift them carefully. Stand the tubers upside down to drain for a few days and then store in a frost-free place. Those of you living in milder areas may not need to lift them at all, just apply mulch.
- Garlic likes to be planted in October as do some shallots and onion sets.
- Harvest pumpkins plus other squashes and ripen in a sunny spot before storing as this will harden the skins. No doubt some pumpkins will be carved into fantastical creatures for Halloween!
- Remove spent summer veg from the greenhouse and give it a good clean, including the glass. During autumn and winter, you want maximum light penetration.



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