

IN YOUR WEB BROWSER

□ Check tree and shrub stakes to make sure that any ties are secure but not causing damage by rubbing. New trees can be planted, just keep them well watered.

□ January can be the coldest of months, so keep some fleece handy to protect plants that were simply too big to move under cover.

Check any stored dahlia and begonia tubers. Use a sharp knife to carefully cut away any signs of rot. If the tubers look shrivelled plunge them in a bucket of tepid water overnight, then dry thoroughly.

□ Firm in any plants that have been lifted by frost.

□ Houseplants will want to be kept cool and free from drafts. Water sparingly.

□ Citrus plants will appreciate a winter feed and an occasional drink.

□ Early in the month sow onion seed in an indoor propagator, for planting out in April.

□ Pot on autumn-sown sweet peas and place on a sunny windowsill. If you didn't start any then no problem, sweet peas seeds can be sown early this month.

□ On rare sunny days open cold frames and greenhouse windows. This will help to keep the plants tough enough to handle those very cold days still to come. Just remember to close them again before dark!

□ Some seeds such as chilli and aubergine are slow growers so order them this month for an early start. Aubergine F1 Pinstripe is dwarf and so ideal for a patio pot, producing delicious and attractive purple/cream striped fruits.



