

TO DO IN JANUARY



Is It Going to Snow?

The one thing we cannot guarantee is the weather, but whatever it is, there is always something to do.

SHRUBS AND TREES

- ◆ Prevent damage by shaking snow off evergreens.
- ◆ Dead, diseased and untidy branches may be cut back on frost-free days.
- ◆ Recycle Christmas trees by shredding for mulch.
- ◆ Prune wisteria side shoots towards the end of the month

PONDS

- ◆ Remove net coverings so that maximum light can get to the water.
- ◆ If a pond freezes over, create an ice-free hole. Putting a ball in the pond can achieve this.
- ◆ Try not to disturb pond water. Do not break any ice. It could cause shock waves that could harm any creatures sheltering below.

MAINTENANCE

- ◆ Repair fences and supports.
- ◆ Clean and service the pond pump, if the pond is not frozen.
- ◆ Keep putting out food and water for hungry birds.
- ◆ Dig over any vacant plots that have not been dug already.
- ◆ Apply Moss killer like Algon to hard surfaces to prevent slippery paths.
- ◆ Repair and re-shape lawn edges.
- ◆ When it snows, avoid repeatedly walking the same path across the lawn and compacting snow.

LAWNS

- ◆ Try not to walk on new lawns if frozen.
- ◆ During snow, avoid walking the same path across a lawn and compacting the snow.

FLOWERING PLANTS

- ◆ Sow seeds for annuals under heated glass.
- ◆ Check stored dahlia, begonia and canna tubers for signs of mould.
- ◆ Check pots for water; it may be cold but it can still be dry.
- ◆ Dead-head winter flowering plants.
- ◆ Prune container grown vines.



FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

- * Harvest winter cabbage, leeks and Jerusalem artichokes.
- * New vegetable beds can be dug over. Leave the clods of earth to be broken up by the frosts.
- * Start forcing rhubarb.
- * Plan your vegetable crop rotations for the coming season.
- * Prepare a polythene shelter for outdoor peaches and nectarines, to protect them from peach leaf curl.
- * Seed potatoes are available to buy.