

OCTOBER - Jobs To Do

Flower Garden:

- Bring tender plants such as **Pelargoniums** and **Fuchsias** indoors for over-wintering**;**
- Take root cuttings of fleshy-rooted perennials, such as **Acanthus, Eryngium, Phlox, Verbascum** and **Oriental Poppy**;
- Split **Perennials** and re-plant whilst the soil is still warm, so that they can get established;
- Cut back old foliage on **herbaceous perennials**;
- Remove old leaves from **Hellebores** to prevent leaf-spot disease infecting the new foliage and to show off the flowers when they develop;
- Plant hardy **deciduous climbers, hedges, shrubs, trees** and **roses**;
- Sow **Sweet Peas** in deep pots or cardboard tubes and **Hollyhocks** and over-winter in a greenhouse;
- Once the soil is damp, spread well-rotted garden compost or leafmould on the soil to act as a **mulch** – this will help conserve warmth in the soil;
- Clear **leaves** from lawns, rockeries, flowerbeds and paths and store in a mesh bin or black sacks punched with holes and kept damp, to make **leafmould**, which makes an excellent soil improver or mulch and can also be used as a seed-sowing medium – see the Fact Sheet in the "Members" section of our website for more information on this;
- Net your **pond** to stop leaves falling in.

Vegetable Garden:

- Plant **Garlic** and **Autumn Onion Sets** – Garlic is now available from the Trading Centre;
- Sow **Broad Beans** (Aquadulce Claudia – available from the Trading Centre);
- Apply garden **lime** to the soil to raise the pH level to 7.5 where **Brassicas** will be grown;
- Sow hardy varieties of **Peas**, such as Feltham First or Meteor or the mangetout Oregon Sugar Pod;
- Mulch **Asparagus** beds with seaweed once there's some moisture in the soil;
- Use your **surplus vegetables**, eg courgettes, beetroot, butternut squash etc to make cakes – see our Cookery Section in the 2017 Programme and Show Schedule for some ideas;
- Start winter digging in readiness for the heavy frosts to break the soil down.

Fruit:

- Prune **Gooseberry** bushes and **Red** and **White Currants** on a short trunk: shorten new growth at the tip of each main branch by half and cut side-shoots to within 2 buds of the main stem;
- Plant **Fruit trees, bushes and canes**.