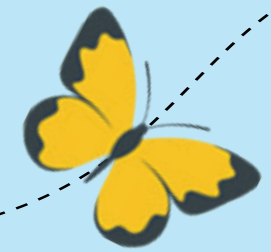


Little Green Fingers

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January



Plant garlic cloves when the weather allows
Try elephant garlic for fun! It is big but has a milder flavour.

Plant bare-root fruit bushes and raspberry canes
Harvest kale which is a superfood!



Cut down any dead stems to give light
To emerging perennials and bulbs.

Mulch borders with compost



Add a pond
Even a small one will have huge benefits for wildlife.

Plant bare-root native hedging
That will provide food and habitat for birds.

February



Sow broad beans and peas under cover

Chit early potatoes
Put seed potatoes in open egg boxes in a light and frost free space to start them into growth.

Sow tomatoes and chillies indoors



Divide clumps of perennials and grasses to make more plants for free

Sow sweet pea in deep pots
You can start them indoors but once they appear get them out into the cold.

Add well rotted manure or compost to beds



Make fat ball feeders for birds

Clear pond debris
leaving it on the side for a few days so any critters can escape back into the water.

March



Plant onion and shallot sets

Plant potatoes on St Patrick's day
Sow carrot seeds thinly
In raised beds to help avoid root fly.



Prune Buddleia which will flower with growth
Sow tender annuals indoors like Dahlia mix
It will give you a wonderful display in Summer.

Plant summer flowering bulbs
Like lilies and Crocosmia in containers.



Plant wild flower seeds
Like Ragged Robin, Red Campion and Cornflower in modules.

Place hollow stems in sheltered corners
To create habitat for insects.

April



Plant out the broad beans

Sow beetroot, lettuce, radish & spinach outside
Keep on top of weeds germinating
Around young veg plants.



Sow sunflowers in pots for planting out later
Install water butts to capture April showers
Plants will love this rain water when it warms up.

Deadhead spring bulbs
Let the leaves die back naturally.



Add aquatic plants to ponds
Like Iris and Marsh Marigold.

Put a bag of barley straw in the pond
To keep the water clear.

May



Earth up potatoes
This just means covering the shoots with compost.

Harden off courgettes before they are planted
Put out during the day and under cover at night.

Sow sweetcorn in deep pots
For planting out in June.



Sow biennials like foxgloves
Which will flower next year.

Pinch out the tips of bedding plants
More side shoots means more flowers.

Sow Californian poppies in gaps or dry ground
Keep it moist until they are established.



Make a dandelion patch
They are great for butterflies

Make sure you have plenty of spring nectar
From plants like lilac, primula and bluebells.

June



Water fruit and veg in containers regularly
In the garden do it weekly – call it 'Thirsty Thursday.'

Use tomato feed on tomatoes, chillies etc.
You can also use it on flowers.

Tie in cane fruit



Flowers in containers will need fed by June
Do it weekly on a Friday as 'Feeding Friday.'

See what plants need support
Tie to canes if necessary

Deadhead flowering plants as blooms fade



Plant Common Boneset (Eupatorium) and Tall Verbena (Verbena bonariensis)
To attract butterflies

Make sure you have a 'hedgehog highway'
By leaving a hog size hole in any fencing.

July



Pin runners from strawberry plants into pots
So they root later in the year.

Remove the top growth of broad beans
Leave the roots in the soil they contain useful nitrogen

Inspect every day for pests
To be controlled before they do too much damage.



Pick sweet pea every two days
Do not allow them to go to seed.

Plant autumn flowering bulbs like Spider Lillies (Nerines)

Remove any weeds before they set seed



Make or buy a home for solitary bees

Make sure there are sources of water
For birds to drink and bathe in.

August



Lift onions and shallots once the tops die down

Plant out the rooted strawberry runners
Into new beds or pots for next year

Sow winter salad leaves



Collect seed as they ripen on flowers

Trim lavender after flowering
Don't cut into woody stems

Begin sowing hardy annuals for next year



Leave seed heads on plants for wild birds

Create a home of frogs

September



Remove fruit canes of raspberries

Harvest apples and pears
Cook and freeze what you can't eat fresh.

Dry chillies for use during the winter



Keep feeding, watering and deadheading
To maintain displays as long as possible

Plant wallflower for spring colour

Take cuttings from salvias



Make sure there are late flowering
Like Sedum and salvias (sages).

Clean out bird boxes

October



Finish harvesting French beans
Leave a few pods to ripen so you can save seed.

Take cuttings of rosemary and thyme

Tidy up veg plots
Pests and diseases can harbour in old leaves.



Plant spring flowering bulbs
Like daffodils and snakes head fritillaries

Empty summer containers into the compost

Use heather and winter pansies
In pots for a winter display



Build a log wall in the garden
Very decorative and perfect for wildlife

Leave areas of ivy to flower and fruit

November



Take hardwood cuttings
From currants and gooseberries to make more plants.

Support top heavy Brussels

Parsnips taste better after frost
Harvest from now.



Plant tulip bulbs in pots

Lift & store dahlia tubers in moist compost
Keep them dark and cool but not frozen over winter.

Fill bin bags with damp fallen leaves
Leave out of sight to produce valuable leafmould.



Plant trees
Crab apples and Rowans are natural food sources.

Bare root roses are available
Single flowered varieties are great for pollinators.

December



Lift and divide large clumps of rhubarb

Plant thornless blackberries

Spread manure or mushroom compost
On beds for the worms to take down.



Grow Winter box (Sarcococca) and Winter sweet (Chimonanthus)
For scent.

Plants in pots are more vulnerable to cold

Bring the outdoors, indoors at Christmas
With evergreen foliage and shrubs with berries.



Put a ball in your pond
Can be removed to make an air hole when frozen.

Feed the birds regularly
Through the colder months.



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