



Newsletter



Hello November!

November is in the midst of the dormant period, so it's the perfect time to prepare your garden for future frost, and keep up with garden maintenance.



Don't forget to follow us on other socials too!

- www.sootysweeps.com
-  [@sweepscafeatsootysplants](https://www.facebook.com/sweepscafeatsootysplants)
-  [@sootysandsweeps](https://www.instagram.com/sootysandsweeps)
-  [@sootysplants](https://twitter.com/sootysplants)

Jobs to do in the garden this month



Although it's preferred to plant in Autumn, plant any remaining bulbs; like tulips, daffodils, and crocuses.



If we're experiencing mild weather, you can still plant Autumnal bedding plants; such as pansies, violas, and wallflowers.



November is the perfect time for bonfires - create out of any garden waste that can't be added to compost.



Tidy up the garden - prune, cut back, and remove any annual plants, and replace with winter bedding to keep colour in your garden over winter.



Lift parsnips after first frost, when their flavour will have sweetened. Prepare to plant rhubarb and asparagus crowns.



Fill your vacant plot with hardy broad beans, onions, garlic, and shallots - but cover to protect



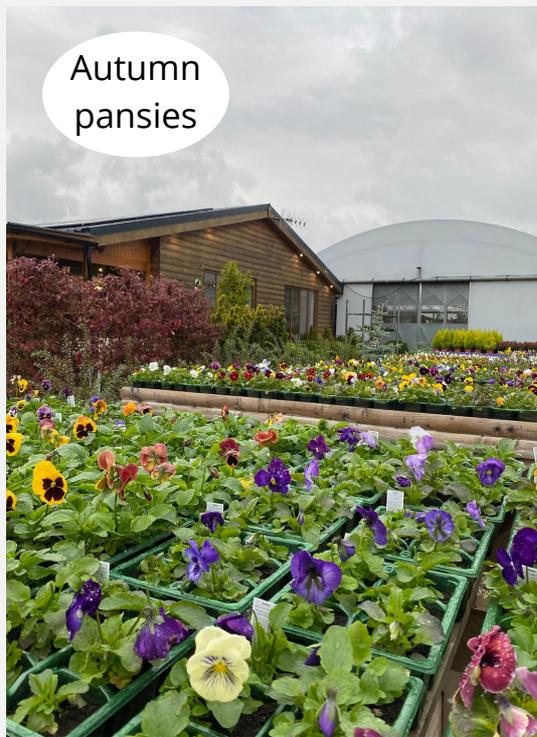
Protect your plants from frost, by moving them to a sheltered insulated place, such as a greenhouse or conservatory



Check stored potatoes and remove any that are rotting; Hessian sacks are ideal to prevent rotting, by allowing air circulation

Beautiful flowers

At Sooty's garden centre we have huge range of plant options, all competitively priced and at the highest quality!
Here are just a few of our staff favourites this month!



Autumn pansies



Jurassic Spiders



Capsicula



Choisya



Heathers



Symphoricarpos

Bulb lasagne planting method?

let's learn how to!



Lasagne planting – also known as double decker bulb planting – brightens up gardens, terraces, and balconies during spring, while providing home to a wide variety of flowers with different flowering periods. Why not make one yourself today – and add some colour to your garden next spring!

What you'll need

- A nice deep pot (preferably one with a drainage hole)
- Hydro granules or potsherds
- A variety of flower bulbs with different flowering periods (3 or more if your pot is large and deep enough)
- Potting soil, or gardening soil
- A scoop

What to do

- Place a layer of hydro granules at the bottom of the pot over the drainage hole – this allows water to drain through, yet not the soil, to assure the bulbs will not rot.
- Choose your flower bulbs – that have different flowering periods. A quick guide would be; Flowers in February/March (Snowdrops, Species Crocus, Crocus, Muscari, Hyacinth), Flowers in March/April (Miniature Tulips, Tulips, Daffodils), Flowers in April/May (Dutch Iris, and Alliums).
- Add a layer of potting soil on top of the hydro grains, then add the first layer of bulbs (Plant the late bloomers first, and the early bloomers towards the top of the pot). Cover them with 3 cm of potting soil, then plant the next layer, and repeat until all bulbs are planted and covered, and cover the last layer of bulbs with 5 cm of potting soil.
- Sit back and enjoy the beautiful colours of spring, week after week.

If you have the space, plant winter violas on top of the bulbs for an instant colour effect. The violas additionally provide protection to the bulbs below from frost!



For a real colourful explosion, choose your bulbs to have a large mix of colours. If you prefer peacefulness, choose everything to flower in the same colour to have a cohesive flowering pot.

Store all your lasagne pots together in a shelter place for extra protection from winter frost, but remember to water your bulbs occasionally if it remains dry for long.

Future Events

Booking is essential - Call Now 01772 812540



It's UKE-A-TEER time again at Sweeps!

Shake off this seasonal sadness, and join Sweep's Cafe on November the 5th, and enjoy listening to the Uke-a-Teers Ukulele Band.

Dates: November 5th

Time: Starting at 1 pm

*Cost: **FREE** - So come along, invite some friends, and have a lovely afternoon at Sweeps with live music.*

Brass Band Concert



FREE EVENT
SWEEP'S CAFE
10TH & 17TH DECEMBER
FROM 1PM TO 3PM

*Music is
performance by:*
**The Marshside
Brass Band**

To reserve a table call 01772 812540

**Booking
Essential**





Preparing for Christmas

What's the ideal plant to gift over the festive period?

Question for you, why would you give a friend or family member fresh flowers, that could die within a week, when you can gift a plant (or two!). Plants make for a perfect gift, for many occasions, and they have their benefits too!

From the increase in tranquillity and ambience to any home, to improving air-quality, to having a calming and stress-relieving effect - a plant truly is a gift that keeps giving.

Swing into Sooty's Plants Garden Centre today and choose from our huge range of plants - indoor and outdoor. **As a seasonal bonus too, we're offering 10% off all houseplants - so grab one while you can!**





Do-It-Yourself Christmas Wreath



A Christmas wreath is a staple item during the festive season. Representing eternal life in various cultures, these beautiful decorations will add beauty and colour to any home. So, why not try and make your own! It's a fun and rewarding craft project, which gives you the chance to create something unique to you and your home!

What You'll Need

- A pair of gloves
- A foam wreath ring
- A small pieces of rope/wire, to hang your finished wreath up with
- Evergreen foliage (We recommend ivy, conifers and spruce, but get creative!)
- And finally decorative pieces; Decorative berries, flowers, pine cones, extra foliage like moss, and even Christmas bells or Christmas lights!
and that's it!

What To Do

- Soak your foam ring in water for about 10 minutes - you can add a floral preservative to help give your wreath an extra boost throughout the colder months.
- Once the ring wreath has soaked, wrap around your rope/wire several times, as this will be your hanging hook once the wreath is finished.
- Take your evergreen foliage and cut them to your desired length.
- Separate your prepared foliage into piles.
- Now, there are two ways to build your wreath.
 - The first method is to select a piece of each of your material and build a bunch which is pretty and visually balanced. We recommend to keep the larger pieces at the base, and the smaller pieces, like the berries towards the top. Once they are in a desired position, you can now attach and add to your foam ring. We recommend designing your bundles before adding them to the ring to avoid any unnecessary damage to the ring. Simply repeat this process, until the wreath is full to your desired style.
 - The second method, is to simply add the larger foliage pieces into the wreath at an angle, and add in a circular pattern, working your way around the wreath. Then simply add more foliage gradually, and add any decorative pieces at the end, until you have a finished design!
 - Now all you need to do is find your perfect spot to hang your new wreath! Hanging outside will help keep it fresher for longer (for about 4 weeks), but it all depends on the foliage used.

Continue reading this newsletter, and have a look at the next page, to see some incredible wreath designs - which may help boost your imagination!

Do-It-Yourself Christmas Wreath



FREE VENUE HIRE AT SWEEPS for any occasion



BOOK TODAY

Our venue hire catering options range from:

- Hot Buffet
- Cold Buffet
- Kids Buffet

So whether its for

- Private Event Catering
- Corporate Event Catering
- Birthday Parties
- Weddings
- **Christmas Parties**
- Funerals / Wakes

or anything else, get in touch today!

To book: Call us at 01772 812540, or contact us on www.sootysweeps.com

Winter Wildlife

Although Winter is known as a time for hibernation, many forms of wildlife can still be seen! Your outdoor space can offer essential food, shelter and habitat to these creatures, from colourful birds to mischievous mammals.

Birds

During the winter season, birds will visit your garden for much-needed food, water and shelter.

Trees and shrubs are great for our feathery guests as they provide nesting areas, while some species produce winter berries and fruit that birds can eat. These fruit-bearing plants also add a pop of colour to your winter garden, such as holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), juniper (*Juniperus communis*) and blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*).

As natural food sources are diminished in the colder months, adding a bird feeder with seeds and fats to your garden is also a brilliant help for these winged winter visitors.

If you want to go the extra mile to help attract more birds to your garden, add a water feature! Something as large as a pond, or as small as a bird bath, will help attract birds and other wildlife to your garden, providing them with a vital place to drink and wash.

One of the most iconic winter birds to watch and listen out for is the robin (*Erithacus rubecula*) with its famous bright red breast. Robins sing all year round, one of the few birds in the UK that do, so enjoy this musical treat (Pictured on the left).

Additionally, look out for other native birds in your garden, such as the chaffinch, the blue tit, blackbird, and the goldcrest!

You should also keep your eyes peeled for migratory birds that travel to Britain throughout the winter in search for food and a place to temporarily rest. These include the redwing, and waxwings!



Winter Wildlife



Hedgehogs

To escape the chill, Hedgehogs hibernate during the colder winter months – So they will likely still be in your garden but hidden away. They tend to hibernate in nests made of fallen leaves, or find a sheltered spot underneath logs, compost heaps, or garden sheds – or hedgehog house (which we sell at Sooty's, along with hedgehog specific food to help attract and support these beautiful animals).

Miniscule Hazel Dormouse

Additionally to the hedgehog, dormice hibernate too! These adorable creatures nest on the ground, curling up in a ball, and wrap their tails around themselves for warmth. These species live mainly in woodland or farmland, so are likely to be found in country gardens.

Check out the National Dormouse Monitoring Programme (NDMP) to help with the monitoring and conservation of this rare species.



Fox

Winter berries are a food source for many animals this season, including the omnivorous fox (*Vulpes vulpes*). As well as fruit, foxes have a varied diet and eat rabbits, rodents, insects, birds and scavenge in rubbish bins. You're more likely to spot a fox in your garden around dawn and dusk when they are most active. Foxes mate in winter so are particularly noisy with their barks, screeches and howls. So even if you don't see one, you may still hear them.

Winter Wildlife

Grey Squirrel

One common visitor to British gardens is the grey squirrel.

In winter, these non-native rodents are less active but don't hibernate and will use their bushy tails as a cosy wraparound blanket when sleeping. Grey squirrels will collect nuts, acorns and seeds in autumn and bury them in preparation for the colder season when food is less available. These sneaky mammals are easy to spot in your garden and you may catch them stealing food left out for birds. So keep an eye out for these cheeky visitors!



Badgers

Though a badger's ideal habitat is woodland and countryside, these nocturnal animals can survive in urban environments and may visit your garden during their hunt for food. *Did you know?* Badgers are the biggest land predator in the UK.

These black-and-white mammals are less active in winter but look out for signs of their presence, such as paw prints and claw marks in the soil.

Rabbits

Rabbits are not native to the UK but are now common and widespread here. During winter, they feast on bark, bulbs and grass. You may notice strips of bark removed from the lower parts of certain trees.

Rabbits shelter in underground warrens but you might spot their fluffy white tails as they hop about above ground in search of food.



After the temperature drops, frogs, toads and grass snakes may be hiding in your garden, nestled up in compost heaps or other warm secluded spots. Keep an eye out!

November Planting/Harvest Guide

November is a brilliant time to reflect on what worked well in your garden, and prepare for next year.

Sow Outdoors

Due to the cold, the only suitable fruit and vegetables to sow are,

- Broad Beans
- Garlic
- Onion sets
- Peas

- Apples
- Cherries
- Peaches
- Pears
- Plums
- Quince
- Blackcurrants
- Figs
- Gooseberries
- Grapes
- Raspberries
- Redcurrants

Harvest

Fruit

- Apples
- Bullace plums
- Grapes
- Pears
- Quince
- blackcurrants
- Grapes
- Pears

Vegetables

- Beetroot
- Broccoli
- Brussels sprouts
- Cabbage
- Carrots
- Cauliflower
- Celeriac
- Celery
- Chard
- Jerusalem artichokes
- Kale
- Leeks
- Lettuce
- Parsnips
- Swede
- Turnips



Gardener's Quiz

Good luck!

Which of the following is NOT a benefit of using mulch?

- a. To keep the soil cool
- b. To prevent weeds
- c. To dry out wet soil

"Wilson's Wonder" is a kind of which nut tree?

- a. Walnut
- b. Hazelnut
- c. Chestnut



Why do people believe pea and bean roots should be left in the ground after harvesting?

- a. To release nitrogen back into the soil
- b. To sanitise the soil
- c. To keep predators at bay



Which of the following is NOT a winter vegetable?

- a. Tomato
- b. Parsnip
- c. Leek



Which part of the horseradish plant can be used to make a sauce?

- a. Root
- b. Flower
- c. Leaves



*We can't wait to
welcome you!*

