



# Newsletter



## Happy New Year!

From Sooty's and Sweep's!  
January is the first month of the year, and plenty of jobs can be started now to get the ball rolling for an incredible year spent inside your garden!

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

[www.sootysweeps.com](http://www.sootysweeps.com)

 @sweepscfeatsootysplants

 @sootysandsweeps

 @sootysplants



# Jobs to do in the garden this month



If you have a pond, cover it with netting to catch any falling leaves or debris. Additionally, remove filters to avoid damage from frost.



Stock up your bird feeders and bird baths, to help migrating and hungry birds.



Clean pots and greenhouses ready for spring, to help control pests and diseases.



Dig over any vacant plots that have not been dug already to cultivate the soil.



Prune back blackcurrant leaves, and apple and pear trees to promote stronger growth



Make a shelter for outdoor peaches and nectarines (soft fruits) to protect against the cold and peach leaf curl.



Move winter containers into positions of full sun in the garden. Keep watering winter flowering displays.



Inspect stored plants, like Dahlia, Begonia, and Canna's for root rot or drying out to promote healthy growth.



# *What to do with your old Christmas Tree?*

Here are THREE top tips from our Sooty's staff,

## **Let it rot**

Let nature do her thing!

Due to trees being biodegradable, simply cut your tree into sticks and stack them in a shady part of your garden! Not only will it support wildlife, it will also improve soil and nearby plants as it rots.

## **Shred it**

If you cannot wait for the tree to naturally rot, shredding is a great way to speed up decomposition. Shredding also makes for good mulch for shrubs and paths!

## **Chop it and stack it**

If you don't have access to a garden shredder, you can chop the tree up with secateurs, and saw the trunk into short sections. The stacked sections can then be placed around your garden and will slowly disappear, feeding and sheltering wildlife as it decays.



Looking to lose a few extra Christmas pounds?

# Introducing our Slimmers' Way Menu!



**TRY IT TODAY**

To book or enquire about this please call us at 01772 812540,  
or contact us on [www.sootysweeps.com](http://www.sootysweeps.com)

*Sooty's latest update*  
**Our cosy chalet**



**It's the time of year again!**

When Sweep's Cafe's summer room transforms into a cosy winter chalet, fitted with two fireplaces, blankets, and a brand new carpet to keep in the warmth even more! Come down to Sweep's Cafe today to check it out!

**to book a table please call 01772 812540**

# January Planting/Harvest Guide

January is typically the coldest month of the year - but that doesn't mean nothing can be done within our gardens!

## Sow Outdoors

### Fruit

- Plant bare-root trees and bushes (As long as the soil is NOT frozen).

### Vegetables

- Sow broad beans in pots in mild areas, placing them in cold frames or unheated greenhouses.
- Sow seeds indoors for early crops; Like lettuces, cabbages, cauliflowers, turnips, salad onions etc.
- Sow onion seed in a heated propagator.

## Pruning

### Fruit

- Prune apples, pears, quinces, and medlars.
- Prune currants and gooseberries
- Prune autumn raspberries

## Harvest

### Vegetables

- Sprouting Broccoli
- Brussels Sprouts
- Jerusalem Artichokes
- Leeks
- Parsnips
- Swede
- Celeriac
- Turnips



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## General maintenance

### Fruit

- Keep checking stored fruits and remove rotten ones.
- Ensure tree stakes and ties are firm and sound.
- Harvest citrus fruits once mature.
- Apply a top dressing of sulphate of potash if you have it to all fruits and nuts.

### Vegetables

- Stake or earth Brussels sprouts that look leggy or vulnerable to wind. Pick large sprouts from the lowest down stalk first.
- Cultivate and prepare seed beds covering them to warm the soil before sowing.
- Add grit if poor drainage of heavy soil.
- Lay down a plank of wood for a walk way over wet soil to avoid compacting the soil.
- Plan a rotation system for vegetable plots to ensure the same crops are not grown in the same beds year after year.

# Quiz Time!

Good luck!

Non-garden related, but what year did the TV show 'The Sooty Show' begin?  
a. 1955  
b. 1952  
c. 1972



Which of the below is a potato variety?

- a. Maris Pepper
- b. Rooster
- c. Risotto

What is the fastest growing woody plant in the world?

- a. Hydrangeas
- b. Bamboo
- c. Rambling Rector



In what season should you plant daffodil bulbs?

- a. Spring
- b. Summer
- c. Fall



What is the official state beverage of Ohio, USA?

- a. Lemon Juice
- b. Pineapple Juice
- c. Tomato Juice



*We can't wait to  
welcome you!*

