



Newsletter



Happy February!

February can be a conflicting month for gardeners.

Winter is not yet over, and spring remains a way off, so we're stuck in limbo waiting to get out into the garden to prepare for the next season ahead!

However, it's exciting times at Sooty's Garden Centre! With new product ranges arriving daily, and spring bulbs in stock now's the perfect time to plan and prepare!

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

www.sootysweeps.com

 @sweepscafeatsootysplants

 @sootysandsweeps

 @sootysplants



Jobs to do in the garden this month



Prepare vegetable seed beds, and sow some vegetables under cover



Transplant deciduous shrubs growing in the wrong place, while they are dormant



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



Cut away all the old foliage from epimediums with shears, before the spring flowers start to develop



Protect blossom on apricots, nectarines, and peaches



Prune winter-flowering shrubs that have finished flowering



Net fruit and vegetable crops to keep the birds off



Cut back deciduous grasses left uncut over the winter, remove dead grass from evergreen grasses

Preparing for Spring

SOOTY'S HAS NEW STOCK FOR THE YEAR ARRIVING ALREADY

Spring Bulbs

Spring bulbs are fantastic as they provide early colour throughout your garden, at affordable prices!

We currently have a wide variety in stock.

A few variants are;

- Iris, Pixie, Joyce and Mixed
- Narcissus, Topolino and Baby Moon
- Tulip, Red Riding Hood, Shirley, Jetfire, Guisepe Verdi
- Camellia's, Snow Drops, Rhododendrons, and more!



OUR TOP TWO STOCK ADDITIONS

- Spring Bulbs (Wide varieties in stock)
- Climbing Roses (Wide varieties in stock)



Climbing Roses

Another new stock we're thrilled about is our climbing roses! These plants are an excellent way of bringing height and, as David Austen Roses states, a feeling of abundance to the garden with bright pops of colour due to their large flowers. Best used on house walls, they can also be added to growing pillars, obelisks, walls, trellises, and over arches.

Preparing for Spring

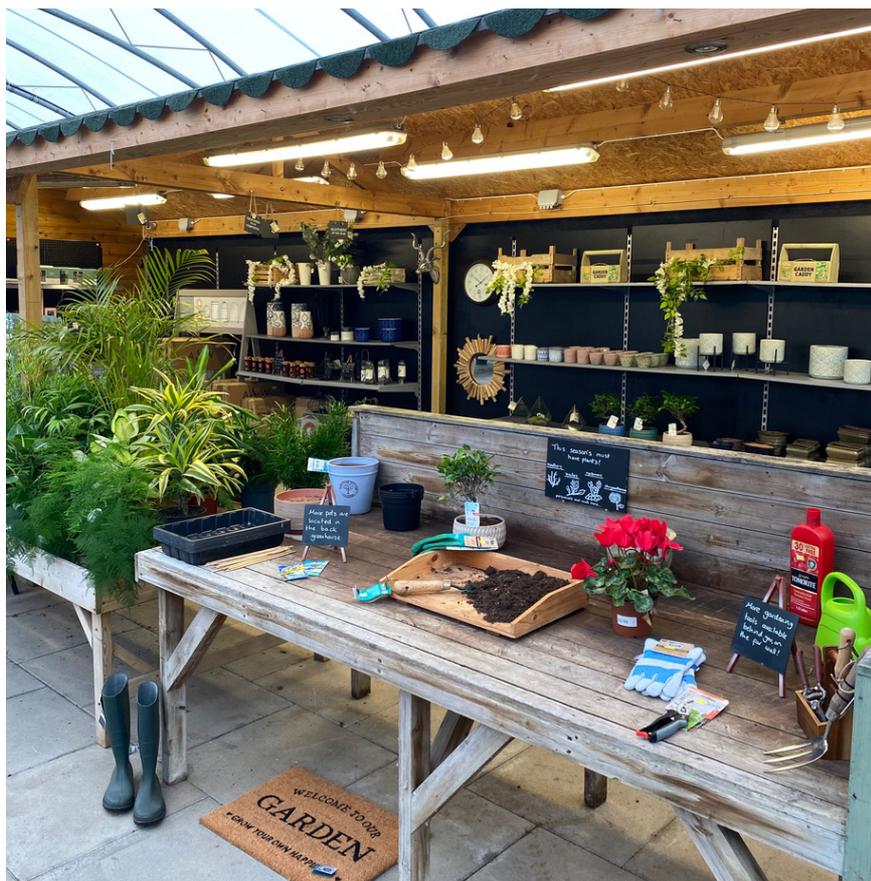
Sooty's Plants also has a diverse range of flower seeds in stock, which can be found by our entrance, in our potting shed.

To further promote wildlife and nature in your garden, we recommend allocating a small section of our garden to grow a wide variety of flowers.

"The greater diversity of plants that you have, the more robust the habitat is for a variety of pollinators and wildlife"

National Geographic

Our seeds include many annuals - which are easy to grow and provide vibrant colourful flowers throughout summer.



Sweep's Cafe Makeover



OUR NEW MENU

We've been listening to what our customers want, and have added some of our popular 'specials' onto our permanent menu for you all!

Don't worry, this just allows our Chef's to get more creative and add even more delicious specials.

OUR CAFE MAKEOVER

We've also been busy at work redecorating the inside of Sweep's Cafe. From the walls being painted, to some new chairs being added for extra comfort. Be sure to pop in and check it out!



TO BOOK A TABLE CALL 01772 812540

Preparing for Spring

PREPARING THE ENTIRE GARDEN, NOT JUST THE PLANTS.

Due to the wet seasons of Autumn and Winter, you may be finding algae growing throughout your garden; On your paths, plants, soil, and furniture, but fear not!

Algae does not harm the plants they grow on, however, it is usually associated with compacted soil or poor drainage. We recommend using our products to prevent the algae from increasing in size, washing the plant, and repotting into a new pot of clean soil with better drainage.



WE STOCK THE BEST KNOWN BRANDS AT AFFORDABLE PRICES



If you have algae, mould, or moss growing in unwanted areas, we have numerous products in stock that will remove these easily!

From Patio Magic to Weedol, to Jobdone. We stock the best-known brands that will treat numerous materials, to meet any need.

If you are unsure of which product you need, please ask a member of staff, and they will happily assist you in-store.

February Sowing and Planting Guide

As long as the ground is not frozen, a key job for this month is to cultivate and prepare seedbeds. To warm your seedbeds up before sowing, cover them with clear polythene, cloches, or fleece!

Sowing and planting

Fruit

- As long as the soil isn't frozen, plant fruit trees, bushes, canes, and vines.

Vegetables

- Chit seed potato tubers as soon as you have them.
- From mid-february, sow tomato and cucumber seeds for greenhouse growing.
- Plant garlic and shallots in light soil only - the heavy soils need longer to warm up.
- Peas can be sown in the greenhouse too, inside old (but clean) guttering. Make sure there are drilled drainage holes in the bottom however.
- Plant Jerusalem artichoke tubers





February



General maintenance

Fruit

- Protect almond, peach, apricot and nectarine blossom from frost, but make sure insects can access the flowers for pollination.
- Untie festooned fruit tree branches that have set into position.
- Harvest citrus fruit when ready.
- Cover outdoor, soil-grown strawberries with cloches for an earlier crop.
- Tip back summer-fruiting raspberry canes to 15cm (6in) above their top support wire.
- Apply a top dressing of sulphate of potash to all fruit if not done last month.

Vegetables

- Cultivate and prepare seedbeds, covering them with clear polythene, cloches or fleece to warm up the soil before sowing.
- Plan a crop rotation system for your vegetable plot.
- Rake in lime if you have acid soil.
- Prepare new asparagus beds.
- Feed spring cabbages with high nitrogen feeds.
- Dig over new beds, but try to avoid digging in wet weather.

Problems

- Slugs can pose a threat, and slug controls are necessary now as always.
- Place mouse controls near stored vegetables and any in the ground still.
- Remove debris from the vegetable plot to prevent mould.



Quiz Time!

Good luck!

What should be the optimum pH of potting medium for the successful growing of fern

- a. 4-7
- b. 3-3.5
- c. 6.5-7



_____ containers are cheap and ideal for home garden?

- a. Plastic
- b. Earthen
- c. Concrete

What should be the optimum soil temperature of potting medium?

- a. 18 - 21C
- b. 10-20C
- c. 8-10C



In what season should you plant daffodil bulbs?

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



Air layering is common in ...

- a. Cotinus
- b. Dracaena
- c. Aglaonema



