

MY GARDENING CHECKLIST – AUTUMN EDITION

1. TIDY UP YOUR BORDERS

- Remove floppy or soggy plants, but leave seed heads for winter interest and to provide food for wildlife.
- Weed to reduce unwanted seed dispersal for next year.
- Compost cuttings and fallen autumn leaves to create a rich, balanced compost mix.

2. PLANT SPRING BULBS

- Tulips, daffodils, crocuses, and hyacinths should be planted after the first frosts, when the ground is cold. This helps prevent bulbs from succumbing to diseases.
- If you've received your bulbs, store them in a cool, dry place until the frosts arrive.

3. PRUNE AND TRIM

- Prune roses, wisteria, and deciduous trees or shrubs to shape them for the next growing season.
- Tidy up fruit trees like apple and pear trees by removing dead or diseased wood.

4. DIVIDE PERENNIALS

- Dig up and split perennial clumps (e.g., hostas, daylilies, and irises) to create new plants for next year.

5. MULCH AND PROTECT

- Spread mulch (bark, compost, or leaf mould) around shrubs and perennials to protect their roots from frost, slow down weed growth, and help retain moisture. Think of it as tucking them in for winter!

6. COLLECT AND SAVE SEEDS

- Gather seeds from flowers like poppies or marigolds and store them in a cool, dry place for next year's planting.

7. LAWN CARE

- Mow the lawn one last time, leaving it slightly longer to protect it from frost.
- Aerate the soil to reduce compaction and improve drainage, especially if your soil is heavy with clay.
- Apply an autumn lawn feed to strengthen the grass.

8. LEAF MANAGEMENT

- Gather fallen autumn leaves and bag them in black bin liners with drainage holes. Store them behind a shed and let nature do the work—over time, they'll turn into invaluable leaf mould.

9. PREPARE THE GREENHOUSE & TOOLS

- Clean your greenhouse and tools to remove pests and diseases.
- Sharpen and oil your tools for the next season. Good tools will last a lifetime if looked after properly—check out Niwaki products from Archerfield Walled Garden.
- Move tender plants indoors or wrap them in protective fleece to shield them from frost.

10. PLANT AUTUMN VEGETABLES

- Plant garlic, onions, and broad beans for an early spring harvest.
- Get leafy greens like spinach, kale, and winter lettuce in the ground before it's too late.

11. FEED THE WILDLIFE

- Once the frosts hit, set up bird feeders and create log piles or bug hotels.
- Don't forget to provide fresh water for birds.

By completing these tasks, you'll not only keep your garden tidy and healthy through the winter but also give yourself a head start for spring!