

# MY Autumn Garden CHECKLIST

- Collect and compost fallen leaves. Leave a few small piles in tucked away spots on the ground as shelter for overwintering wildlife.
- Tidy borders. Remove weeds. Dig up annuals and add to your compost heap.
- Replant tidied borders with winter bedding plants like pansies and violas and evergreens to fill gaps. Camellias, sarcococca, viburnum and photinia are all excellent choices to provide winter interest. For neat borders, add a layer of decorative bark and edge with a landscaping product like log rolls.
- Plan and create new beds and borders.
- Lift tender plants, such as dahlias, canna, begonias and citrus and bring indoors before any risk of frost.
- Autumn is the season for planting spring-flowering bulbs, like narcissi, tulips and alliums.
- Prune perennials. Those with attractive seed heads, such as sedum and hydrangea, can be left for birds to enjoy. For the rest, cut collapsed stems at the base with secateurs and remove any dying leaves.
- Divide / split mature perennials. They can be moved to other parts of the garden to invigorate growth the following year.
- Tidy roses.
- Check fruit trees. Prune unwanted growth and spray with winter wash.
- Plant trees. October-November is a great time of year for tree planting, enabling them to put on good root growth before the spring.
- Restore your soil. Add a layer of nutrient-rich multi-purpose compost.
- Accelerate your compost production. Add a compost maker to speed up the process of producing rich, dark, crumbly compost.
- Safely dispose of garden waste. Use a dustbin incinerator for waste items such as paper and wood.
- Bring light back to your greenhouse. Remove any shade put up during summer and clean and disinfect windows inside and out.
- Repair your lawn following its summer use. Scarify to remove thatch from your lawn by using a manual lawn rake or a powered scarifier.
- Aerate your lawn for better movement of air and water. Either 'spike' holes 10-15cm apart with a garden fork or, every two to three years, use a hollow tine aerator.
- Flatten bumps in the lawn with an edging spade or iron.
- After raking, aerating and flattening, repair any worn or missing patches of lawn by sprinkling over lawn seed. Lightly rake into the surface and walk over it to firm the ground.