

# What to do in your garden

December is here and before I go any further, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year. Let's hope 2025 will be a good one! Here are some jobs we will be doing in our clients' gardens.

Remove the leaves from the lawn and in the borders, as they are better in one place rather than scattered throughout the borders. If a bin or bag not available, just getting them in one rough area is still far better than throughout the garden and will also make a lot of difference to the lawns as well.

If it's not too cold and the lawn looks untidy, give it a cut, but please bear in mind you are only taking the tips off and not scalping the grass. Otherwise, just give it a rake beforehand, to remove leaves and distribute the wormcasts. Carefully remove leaves from the borders and try not to pull out any of this year's newly planted, this is the month for some special flowers to show their best.

The Christmas Box, also known as the fantastically named *Sarcococca*, shows its worth now and for at least another month. They are delicate white flowers that pack a punch with its distinct scent, so take a stem or two into the house. This plant is great for a shady spot!

Also, out this month is Oregon grape, also known as Mahonia. It has lovely bright yellow vanilla scented flowers, but a lot have sharp, spiky, tough leaves. Try Mahonia 'Soft Caress', which gets to about one-metre tall and has lovely soft leaves, not at all prickly!

Don't prune Hydrangeas, Fuchsias or 'Dogwoods' – wait until February or March time when spring is just about to arrive. Apple trees can be pruned later this month and into January, along with grape vines.

Climbing Rose and Wisteria work starts in January. Continue to clear away any perennial leaves dying down. Bulbs can still be planted – put them in a deep, large saucer sized hole, three times their height and plant three or five in the same hole. Try and make sure the bulbs aren't touching.

If your lawn is frozen, try not to walk on it, as you will actually break the grass blades. If you need to regularly walk over to the shed, why not consider placing stepping stones or a pathway to it?

Looking after your garden regularly allows you to spot when things are not right, as well as how wonderful it can look, so a walkabout will be good for the garden and you. If you are not sure where to start, give us at Fleurscape a call.



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**Call us at Fleurscape on**  
**07773 216843 – 01923 861165**  
**[www.fleurscape.co.uk](http://www.fleurscape.co.uk)**