

What to do in your garden

January has arrived. Happy new year. Snow will reveal the outlines and silhouettes in your garden. This can be in many forms, including shrubs, trees, perennials and grasses, which often give structure to your garden. If it's been very cold for a good while and there's a lot of snow still on the evergreens, this can break or damage some. Shrubs and trees are far more vulnerable to this. Brooms are great for this job to prevent any damage.

Taking pictures of your garden throughout the year not only shows you the long-term changes, but can also give you ideas of what to add or what needs to be moved. When you get the quiet period in the winter, look through the pictures. Add a file on your computer, labelling files as front garden, rear garden, rear left side border, etc. For inspiration, add images from Google or Pinterest or photos you've taken during the year, out and about. Good old pen and paper also does the job. Map out your plants as you discover more about them on the internet.

In January, all may seem asleep, but look closer, and you will see plants coming alive. Snowdrops are enticing among the snow – their honey-scented flowers pop their heads up

whatever the weather – while yellow 'Winter Aconite' will brighten up any cold winter's day. Hellebores are a great all-rounder, the Primulas and Violas crisp with the cold. The Bulb seasons starts!

A great shade-loving plant, Sarcococca is also known as Christmas box. This evergreen will give you a delicious scent every time you walk into your garden from January to March. Cut just a stem or two at ground level and bring into your house for decoration.

Things to do in the garden for January: prune apple and pear trees. Just before the birds start to nest; trim hedges (not evergreens). Dig over clay borders; add a good combination of 20 per cent grit, 40 per cent manure and 40 per cent topsoil, and allow the frosts to break it down further. Winter pruning of Wisterias and Roses is essential. Turn your compost bins; and move patio pots closer to the house for protection and get them slightly off the ground. On warmish days, cut the lawn.

Have a look at your garden. How is your view from the house? Are there areas that could be improved, or are you not sure where to start? Consider Fleurscape gardens.



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