

# Garden Action Plan – January

*Winter is the time for rest, reflection and renewal!*

If you only do one thing in your garden in January it should be to **prune your Wisteria**

Of course if you haven't got a Wisteria you could always do one of the following jobs. If you don't do them this month you will soon find you have too much to do in the next few months!

- Recycle your Christmas tree!
- Get your lawn mower serviced and sharpen your tools such as shears, secateurs and edging tools
- Edge your lawn with your newly sharpened tools!
- Remove perennial weeds, they're easier to see now and easier to dig up.
- Clear up the last of the Autumn leaves particularly around roses
- Clean the greenhouse, pots, seed trays and tools
- Re-site any shrubs that are in the wrong position
- Get outside and get digging, incorporating garden compost and mulching as you go but be careful not to tread on or disturb any bulbs.
- Plant new roses, hedges and trees - you can buy bare rooted plants now and save money
- Buy your seeds - I put this one in for those of you who like to shop!
- Keep an eye on fish ponds to ensure there is an air hole but be careful not to crack the ice as this can harm your fish

## ***Julie's Top Tip for seed sowing:***

When you sow the first seeds of the New Year remember that it takes time to prick out seedlings which you'll need to do in a few weeks time so only sow what you need and not the whole packet! Also by saving some seeds you will be able to sow a second batch if the first ones either fail to germinate or the seedlings die.

If you're keen on growing things from seed or taking cuttings here are a few things you can be starting on already:

- Tomatoes, coriander, leeks – sow indoors at the end of the month
- Potatoes - Place early seed potatoes in trays in a cool light place
- Radishes and lettuce – sow outdoors but protect with horticultural fleece or a cold frame
- Broad beans – sow in pots in the greenhouse
- Brussel sprouts, sprouting broccoli, lettuce, onions, beetroot and round carrots – sow under glass
- Shallot and onion bulbs – plant outside
- Sweet peas – sow in pots in the cold frame
- Lily bulbs – plant in pots in the cold frame
- Take hardwood cuttings of shrubs and fruit

In the fruit garden:

- Prune apple and pear trees
- Cover clumps of rhubarb with buckets or terracotta pots to force early stems
- Prune red and white currants
- Cut back Autumn raspberries
- Plant fruit trees, canes and bushes

## ***Julie's 10 minute job spot***

*If you only have 10 minutes at a time to spare in January focus your attention on making your garden look neat, tidy and safer by doing the following jobs:*

*Rake the last of the leaves from your lawn*

*Using a half moon edge your lawn, it will instantly look neater*

*Sweep leaves, moss and debris from your patio and paths, they will look better and be safer if it gets icy*

## ***Final thought:***

Well that's the easiest month of the gardening year taken care of! The digging should have helped you to shed those extra Christmas pounds and also started to get you fit for the coming year. Watch out for next month's newsletter coming your way at the end of January.

