



Grasmere
Garden
Village



GRASMERE GARDENS GAZETTE

JANUARY 2018

JANUARY - HAPPY NEW YEAR!

JOBS TO BE DOING IN YOUR GARDEN THIS MONTH....

Hello 2017! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and thoroughly enjoyed your New Year's Eve!

- Try your best not to walk on wet or water logged lawns or soil. If you must cross them, put down boards to spread your weight and protect the soil structure.
- Rake leaves carefully away from clumps of snowdrops, replanting any that have been lifted by frost.
- Freshen beds and borders planted with spring flowers by lightly forking over the surface. This not only looks good, showing off the plants to their best advantage, it also helps excess water to drain away.
- Check the ties on wall plants and climbers, replace any that have come loose in gales.
- Look closely at fences, pergolas, trellises and other wooden structures. Damage caused by high winds or heavy snow fall should be put right as soon as possible.
- Plant out bulbs of daffodils and hyacinths when they have finished flowering in the house, before they have chance to dry out plant them in a quiet spot and they may well flower again next year!
- Give tools a thorough clean, oiling metal surfaces to discourage rusting. Oil the moving parts of secateurs and loppers, sharpen blades and give the tool store a good tidying.
- Prune Wisteria- If you didn't do this in the summer (or even if you did!) cut all the whippy tendrils back to 3-4 inches (8-10cm) long. This forces it to have fewer leaves and more flowers in the spring.
- Most of all enjoy it!!!!

DON'T FORGET OUR FEATHERED FRIENDS THIS WINTER!

Birds really appreciate the extra food over the winter months. It is important to know which foods are appropriate. In the winter months. Through the winter you should swap from seeds and nuts to energy rich products. Fat is essential to give them a reserve of energy to get through the cold nights e.g. Fat energy balls, suet balls, suet pellets, fat slabs, coconuts with suet are all good sources of energy for our little friends! DO NOT feed them left over cooking fat, Margarine or Vegetable Fat. Birds CAN eat all varieties of cereal (even *Frosties!*) but their favourites seem to be; Muesli, Granola and oat-based cereals. Whole Apples, Pears and other soft fruits are popular and of course peanuts are an all-time favourite for the winged variety! DO NOT feed them Roasted or Salted Peanuts though! Grated Cheese is also a great fat source and is a particular favourite with Wrens, Robins and Dunnocks. Cooked rice is suitable (without Salt) is another great food and most species will eat these through the coldest time of winter. Once you have begun to feed the birds it is best to maintain a routine. Always put out food at roughly the same time each day- this will allow birds to time visits to your garden and avoid spending precious energy on wasted trips!

We would love to see any birds that visit you! Please send us pictures via our Facebook or Twitter....

JANUARY'S STAR PLANTS!

HELLABORUS OREINTALIS – This popular woodland-loving evergreen perennial bearing clusters of saucer shaped flowers. It has stiff foliage with large serrated edges. Coming in a variety of colours; pink, purple, white and green. They enjoy well drained soil either in full sun or partial shade.



ACER GRISEUM – This small tree provides a wonderful bark in the winter months. Also known as the 'Paperbark Maple' – the trunk and branches stand out vividly in the winter landscape, covered in shaggy chestnut flakes curling back from the greyish bark. It looks like it has had a perm! As it is an Acer naturally in the autumn it is totally spectacular with colour and with it being only small it is suitable for a small garden.



PLANT OF THE MONTH! HAMAMELIS (WITCH-HAZEL)

This frost-resistant, fragrant plant with spider-shaped flowers is one of our favourite winter plants. We have two varieties in stock;

HAMAMELIS 'PALLIDA' – This variety has clusters of large, sulphur-yellow flowers in mid – late winter giving your garden a much needed splash of colour through these grey January days!

HAMAMELIS 'VERSA' – This plant has large, dark orange/yellow flowers with pendant petals, flushed red at the bases in mid and late winter.

These deciduous 'tree-like' shrubs also have beautiful coloured autumn leaves making it a must-have for any garden!



DEAL OF THE MONTH!

3 FOR 2 ON 'RED BARN BIRD FOOD'

*cheapest item free