

Things to do in November

You could be picking

- Carrots, beetroot, spring onions are going on in the ground and can stay there if covered before the first frosts arrive.
- Kale, Brussels, red/winter cabbages are looking good under environmesh so the pigeons cannot get them.
- I have some Cauliflower (just!) so am covering heads with leaves to protect from frost. Leeks and parsnips are okay and the celeriac has been earthed up so will last longer. Chinese cabbage has come to an end as have the beans.
- The potatoes are stored in the garage in paper sacks with the onions which are stringed. If kept cool and dark they can go on 'til March (but potatoes may need sprouts removing to keep going through Feb).
- If you have grown chicory cut down the tops and cover to force OR lift the roots and plant up in large pot inside in a dark warm place for chicons throughout the winter.

You could still

- Keep the compost heap going with a mixture of material, wet and dry and toss in some grass cuttings to keep it hot. DO NOT COMPOST PERENNIAL WEED ROOTS
- remove rooted runners from strawberry beds
- prune and burn any fruit branches with canker
- cover any soil not in use to avoid annual weeds developing.
- environmesh is effective cover and gives some protection from bird/insects.
- save seeds for next year. Many (particularly older) varieties types will grow true to type if ripened. Pick when brown and dry, then shell and spread out to dry further. Place in labelled enveloped and keep cold in plastic container

You could sow / plant

- winter varieties of broad beans and peas for an early start
- Garlic and autumn onion sets
- Pot up some herbs for wintering on the windowsill. Put cover over other tender herbs like basil to keep going longer.
- green manure crops like grazing rye or Lucerne which can help with soil condition when dug in the spring.
- Cut down asparagus tops
- Divide rhubarb (every 5 years is recommended?) and enrich soil
- Prune grapevines

Other Jobs

- The grass and weeds were still growing furiously through October so keep cutting grass, brambles, thistles and any nettle regularly to keep in check and stop seeding. If you want to reclaim a grassy area cut weekly. Add to compost bin (not nettle roots)
- Fit guttering to your shed to feed a water butt
- Stake all top heavy brassicas like Brussels sprouts and Kale
- Stay inside when wet and cold and plan your plot and sort out seeds for next year
- Clear crops and either turn soil for frost to break down or double dig and add as much compost as possible.

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