

# Your Savvy Seasonal Guide

## Spring

March, April & May

### March

### April

### May

**Prepare soil** for summer by locking in moisture with a surface mulch. This can help prevent weeds and reduces the need for frequent watering in the summer.

**Collect rainwater** in water butts and position where they'll be most helpful so water is easily at hand whenever you need it.

**Use good quality, peat free compost** with a slow release fertiliser that will retain water for beds and borders.

Add organic matter or humus to soil to improve drainage and boost nutrients for summer plants.

It's time to get summer ready and sow seeds that are low maintenance. Look for cornflowers, california poppy, verbena and salvia.

When prepping your pots for summer mix water retaining crystals into the soil.

Here's all your water saving tips and garden friendly advice in one place.

## Summer

June, July & August

### June

### July

### August

**Love your brown lawn.** Don't worry about trying to keep your lawn green over the summer. It will bounce back quickly during the next rainfall.

**Water wisely.** Water plants early in the morning or in the evening as they'll take up water more efficiently.

**When the weather is dry and hot,** ideally the grass should be kept slightly longer helping it cope better during dry spells, so set the lawnmower blades a little higher.

Reduce the impact of slugs and snails in your garden and be wildlife friendly by choosing pellets with ferric phosphate.

Keep weeds under control. Regular weeding is important, so plants don't have to fight for precious water.

Once the summer flowering shrubs have bloomed, it's time for a prune.



**Grape hyacinth** are pollinator friendly and can spread freely in your garden.



Plants like **bearded iris** are easy to grow and sun loving.



**Allium** flowers are ideal for every garden.



**Delphiniums** attract butterflies in the summer.



**Agapanthus** is loved by pollinators and it thrives in the sun, the perfect summer drought tolerant plant.



**Verbena** flowers until late autumn and is hardy in dry, hot weather.

## Autumn

September, October & November

### September

### October

### November

**Use water you have collected** from a water butt rather than the tap when watering plants.

**Revitalize the soil** in borders by working in organic matter and adding mulch to improve the soil structure ready for next year.

**Get winter ready.** Protect outdoor taps and pipes from leaks and bursts when temperatures drop. Turn off and drain down taps and wrap them up with an outdoor tap jacket.

Autumn proof your garden - rid flowerbeds of weeds, tidy up borders and tend your lawn by improving drainage and adding lawn feed.

Now is the time to plant spring flowering bulbs like alliums, anemones and daffodils.

Make your garden wildlife friendly - create a log pile in a shady corner for hibernating animals and insects.

## Winter

December, January & February

### December

### January

### February

**Make use of Christmas leftovers.** Invest in a kitchen composter to take household food scraps. Add to your outdoor compost or directly onto the soil.

**Make the most of the rain this month** by using buckets to capture over and above what your waterbutt collects.

**Choose plants that don't require a lot of water** - herbs are low maintenance adding colour and beautiful scent to your garden in spring and summer months.

Protect your potted plants from cold winter weather by grouping them together in a sheltered spot in your garden.

Stock up on feeders and give birds a tasty treat by soaking dried fruit. Keep bugs snug by building homes from natural materials like bamboo.

Spring flowering plants like bergenia and hellebores provide nectar and pollen for bees and many pollinating insects.



**Echinops** are a popular perennial and great pollinators, they're also low maintenance.



**Helenium** is an autumn delight. Add mulch to help it retain moisture.



**Winter jasmine** is an ever-green climber that flowers in winter and spring.



**Hellebores**, also known as 'Christmas Rose' are easy to maintain all year round.



**Winter aconite** bring lots of colour to your garden.



**Crocus** are pollinator friendly and the first sign that spring is around the corner.