



Newsletter



Welcome November!

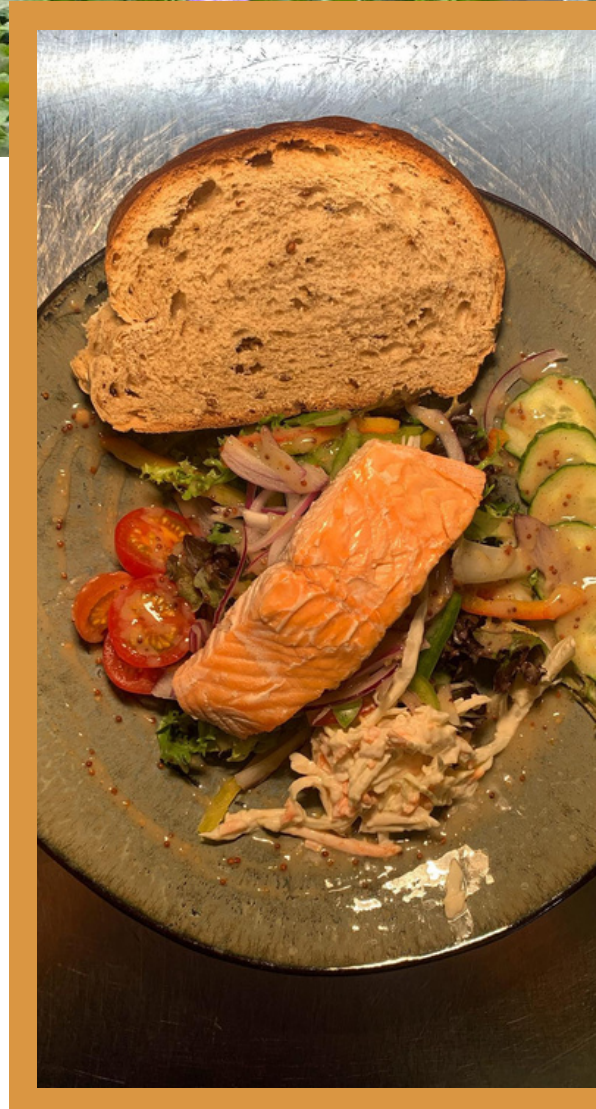


Please show your support and follow us on our social media platforms!

Facebook
@sootysplantstarleton
@sweepscafeatsootys
plants

Instagram
@sootysandsweeps

Twitter
@sootysplants



Jobs to do in the garden this month



Although it's preferred to plant in Autumn, plant any remaining bulbs; like tulips, daffodils, and crocuses.



If we're experiencing mild weather, you can still plant Autumnal bedding plants; such as pansies, violas, and wallflowers.



November is the perfect time for bonfires - create out of any garden waste that can't be added to compost.



Tidy up the garden - prune, cut back, and remove any annual plants, and replace with winter bedding to keep colour in your garden over winter.



Lift parsnips after first frost, when their flavour will have sweetened. Prepare to plant rhubarb and asparagus crowns.



Fill your vacant plot with hardy broad beans, onions, garlic, and shallots - but cover to protect



Protect your plants from frost, by moving them to a sheltered insulated place, such as a greenhouse or conservatory



Check stored potatoes and remove any that are rotting; Hessian sacks are ideal to prevent rotting, by allowing air circulation

Sweeps Cafe November Offers!



MONDAY MADNESS



Get a steak and kidney pudding, chips, peas, gravy, and bread with butter for only £10



Get a bowl of our soup of the day with any select sandwich for only £7

Don't miss out!
Available every Monday in November!

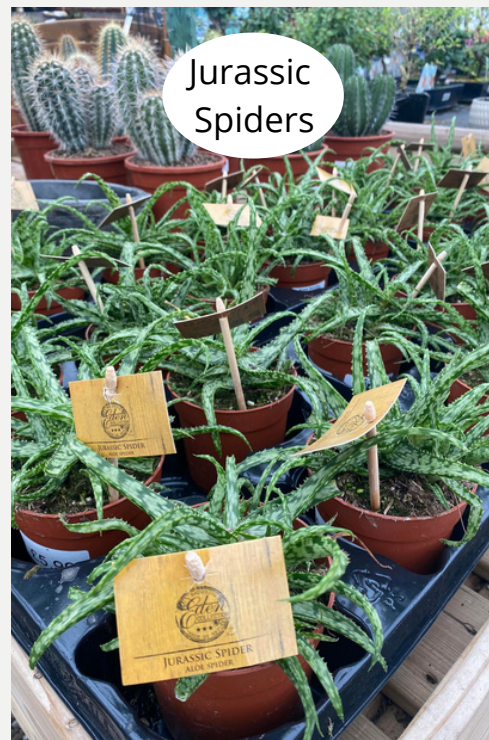
Book a table by calling us at **01772 812540**

Beautiful flowers

At Sooty's garden centre we have huge range of plant options, all competitively priced and at the highest quality!
Here are just a few of our staff favourites this month!



Autumn pansies



Jurassic Spiders



Capsicula



Choisya



Heathers



Symphoricarpos

Bulb lasagne planting method?

let's learn how to!



Lasagne planting – also known as double decker bulb planting – brightens up gardens, terraces, and balconies during spring, while providing home to a wide variety of flowers with different flowering periods. Why not make one yourself today – and add some colour to your garden next spring!

What you'll need

- A nice deep pot (preferably one with a drainage hole)
- Hydro granules or potsherds
- A variety of flower bulbs with different flowering periods (3 or more if your pot is large and deep enough)
- Potting soil, or gardening soil
- A scoop

What to do

- Place a layer of hydro granules at the bottom of the pot over the drainage hole – this allows water to drain through, yet not the soil, to assure the bulbs will not rot.
- Choose your flower bulbs – that have different flowering periods. A quick guide would be; Flowers in February/March (Snowdrops, Species Crocus, Crocus, Muscari, Hyacinth), Flowers in March/April (Miniature Tulips, Tulips, Daffodils), Flowers in April/May (Dutch Iris, and Alliums).
- Add a layer of potting soil on top of the hydro grains, then add the first layer of bulbs (Plant the late bloomers first, and the early bloomers towards the top of the pot). Cover them with 3 cm of potting soil, then plant the next layer, and repeat until all bulbs are planted and covered, and cover the last layer of bulbs with 5 cm of potting soil.
- Sit back and enjoy the beautiful colours of spring, week after week.

If you have the space, plant winter violas on top of the bulbs for an instant colour effect. The violas additionally provide protection to the bulbs below from frost!



For a real colourful explosion, choose your bulbs to have a large mix of colours. If you prefer peacefulness, choose everything to flower in the same colour to have a cohesive flowering pot.

Store all your lasagne pots together in a shelter place for extra protection from winter frost, but remember to water your bulbs occasionally if it remains dry for long.

Promoting wildlife in your garden

NEED HELP?
GIVE US A CALL

01772 816901

WHEN IT COMES TO SUPPORTING WILDLIFE IN YOUR GARDEN, SOOTY'S HAS YOU COVERED.

Whether you're looking for various types of bird feed, bird feeders, bird houses or bug hotels - Sooty's has you covered! Even down to providing food and shelter for your local hedgehog family!

Pop in today to see what we have!



If you are unsure of which products you need, or whether you're curious to know whether a specific plant will help attract your favourite bird species to your garden - please ask a member of our staff, who will happily assist you in-store or over the phone, however best they can!

Winter Wildlife

Although Winter is known as a time for hibernation, many forms of wildlife can still be seen! Your outdoor space can offer essential food, shelter and habitat to these creatures, from colourful birds to mischievous mammals.

Birds

During the winter season, birds will visit your garden for much-needed food, water and shelter.

Trees and shrubs are great for our feathery guests as they provide nesting areas, while some species produce winter berries and fruit that birds can eat. These fruit-bearing plants also add a pop of colour to your winter garden, such as holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), juniper (*Juniperus communis*) and blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*).

As natural food sources are diminished in the colder months, adding a bird feeder with seeds and fats to your garden is also a brilliant help for these winged winter visitors.

If you want to go the extra mile to help attract more birds to your garden, add a water feature! Something as large as a pond, or as small as a bird bath, will help attract birds and other wildlife to your garden, providing them with a vital place to drink and wash.

One of the most iconic winter birds to watch and listen out for is the robin (*Erithacus rubecula*) with its famous bright red breast. Robins sing all year round, one of the few birds in the UK that do, so enjoy this musical treat (Pictured on the left).

Additionally, look out for other native birds in your garden, such as the chaffinch, the blue tit, blackbird, and the goldcrest!

You should also keep your eyes peeled for migratory birds that travel to Britain throughout the winter in search for food and a place to temporarily rest. These include the redwing, and waxwings!



Winter Wildlife



Hedgehogs

To escape the chill, Hedgehogs hibernate during the colder winter months - So they will likely still be in your garden but hidden away. They tend to hibernate in nests made of fallen leaves, or find a sheltered spot underneath logs, compost heaps, or garden sheds - or hedgehog house (which we sell at Sooty's, along with hedgehog specific food to help attract and support these beautiful animals).

Miniscule Hazel Dormouse

Additionally to the hedgehog, dormice hibernate too! These adorable creatures nest on the ground, curling up in a ball, and wrap their tails around themselves for warmth. These species live mainly in woodland or farmland, so are likely to be found in country gardens.

Check out the National Dormouse Monitoring Programme (NDMP) to help with the monitoring and conservation of this rare species.



Fox

Winter berries are a food source for many animals this season, including the omnivorous fox (*Vulpes vulpes*). As well as fruit, foxes have a varied diet and eat rabbits, rodents, insects, birds and scavenge in rubbish bins. You're more likely to spot a fox in your garden around dawn and dusk when they are most active. Foxes mate in winter so are particularly noisy with their barks, screeches and howls. So even if you don't see one, you may still hear them.



November Planting/Harvest Guide

November is a brilliant time to reflect on what worked well in your garden, and prepare for next year.

Sow Outdoors

Due to the cold, the only suitable fruit and vegetables to sow are,

- Broad Beans
- Garlic
- Onion sets
- Peas

- Apples
- Cherries
- Peaches
- Pears
- Plums
- Quince
- Blackcurrants
- Figs
- Gooseberries
- Grapes
- Raspberries
- Redcurrants

Harvest

Fruit

- Apples
- Bullace plums
- Grapes
- Pears
- Quince
- lackcurrants
- Grapes
- Pears

Vegetables

- Beetroot
- Broccoli
- Brussels sprouts
- Cabbage
- Carrots
- Cauliflower
- Celeriac
- Celery
- Chard
- Jerusalem artichokes
- Kale
- Leeks
- Lettuce
- Parsnips
- Swede
- Turnips



Gardener's Quiz

Good luck!

Which of the following is NOT a benefit of using mulch?

- a. To keep the soil cool
- b. To prevent weeds
- c. To dry out wet soil



"Wilson's Wonder" is a kind of which nut tree?

- a. Walnut
- b. Hazelnut
- c. Chestnut

Why do people believe pea and bean roots should be left in the ground after harvesting?

- a. To release nitrogen back into the soil
- b. To sanitise the soil
- c. To keep predators at bay



Which of the following is NOT a winter vegetable?

- a. Tomato
- b. Parsnip
- c. Leek



Which part of the horseradish plant can be used to make a sauce?

- a. Root
- b. Flower
- c. Leaves



*We can't wait to
welcome you!*

