

This month at Brunswick...



Brunswick is a community for adults with learning disabilities and/or autism in Bishophthorpe, growing organic fruit and veg, bedding plants, perennials and shrubs, all sold at their shop on Appleton Road, with the proceeds supporting the charity.

GOOD TO GROW!

Our experts advise on what to do in September...

With Plant Production Manager, Mark Jackson



Many people see September as the beginning of the end of the gardening year, but I prefer to think of it as our fifth season: Late Summer! Many perennials continue to perform well such as Rudbeckia, Persicaria and Echinacea, while Asters and Sedum are only just reaching their peak. Hydrangea paniculata varieties are a particular favourite, also Dahlia and Salvia varieties will continue flowering until the first frosts if regularly deadheaded. Many of these late blooms are not only attractive but provide valuable food for pollinating insects preparing for winter.

After the prolonged dry weather, many gardens are looking tired and frazzled. A tidy-up can make a big difference, but don't be too quick to remove struggling perennials, most

will recover and return next year. Continue to prioritise watering trees and shrubs, as these are among the most valuable plants in the garden.

If your spring bulbs have arrived, Daffodils and Crocus can be planted straight away. Tulips are best left until November, when cooler conditions help reduce the risk of disease.

One of the most rewarding jobs in September is collecting your own seed. Do this on a dry day and store in labelled, airtight containers and keep them in a cool place – even the fridge. Some plants will produce offspring identical to the parent, while others may crosspollinate, creating exciting variations in colour.

Let's hope for some welcome rain and a little more late summer sunshine before autumn.

Gardening Q&A

SEPT

I'm not after a lawn like a tennis court but honestly, it's just a brown dry mess. What can I do?

Don't worry, September is the best time for lawn rescue. The long hot summer (and kids playing on it in the holidays) have left grass dry, patchy and

compacted so start by raking out anything that comes loose, aerate the worst areas by punching holes in them with a garden fork, and reseed the bare patches, watering regularly. (And keep everyone off these areas until it's grown back!)

BRUNSWICK'S PLANT OF THE MONTH:

Alliums



Hi, I'm Alex, and this month I am going to advise about alliums - which include onions, garlic and leeks as well as lovely ornamental flowers. I especially like 'Allium Purple Caula.'

September is the perfect time to plant new alliums for Spring, or split and reuse any you have already. They should last up to around 4 years.

Existing alliums: For overcrowded clumps, wait until the leaves and flowers have died down (so the bulbs keep all their nutrients) and then lift, divide and replant somewhere else! Some species will produce new young plants or bulbs which you can use again.

Planting new bulbs: Choose a sheltered spot with free-draining soil and plenty of sunshine during the day. You can grow them in containers but avoid cold or waterlogged areas or the bulbs could rot. Plant down at least four times the diameter of the bulb and 3 inches apart for small alliums up to 8 inches for larger ones.

Problems: The best defence for any garden is to grow organically so you build up helpful pest controllers like hoverflies, lacewings and ladybirds. It is also helpful to cover with a light mesh to discourage allium leaf miner and onion fly.