

Joys of Autumn

This is my favourite time of the year – nothing like kicking through the leaves on an autumn weekend walk. The joys of this season are upon us, as the days become cooler and daylight shorter the leaves on the deciduous trees and shrubs will stop producing green chlorophyll and their colours will change from green to yellows, oranges and reds depending on the species.

It is still a good time to plant as the soil temperatures are still warm to encourage root growth – thereby allowing younger plants to produce their roots before winter sets in. The milder temperatures will also ensure less water stress to your plants.



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Seasonal Planted containers.

I will have both 12" & 14" Winter & Spring hanging baskets available:



Each have a selection of evergreen plants and centre piece to last the winter & spring period, plus pansies and viola. The compost used is peat free with a spring surprise of Narcissus 'Tete a Tete' and blue Muscari.

The pricing includes delivery and VAT at £32 each for the 12" and £38 each for the 14".

Larger sizes are available on request.

Or why not sign up to the yearly basket scheme? Whereby you will receive a seasonal basket (Winter/Spring & Summer/Autumn) for the year – providing you maintain the watering - plants will be replaced if not up to standard.



Alternatively, I can arrange containers and customised baskets to your specification – please contact me.

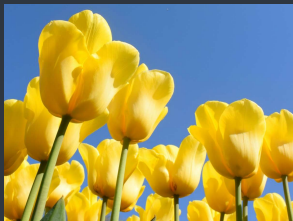


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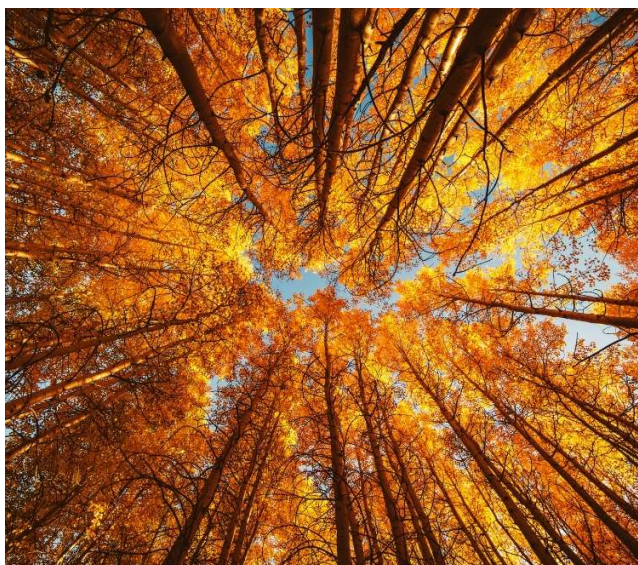
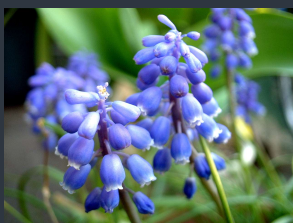
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Preparation

Now is the time to enjoy the colours in your garden, yet also prepare your garden for winter and spring – those of you who have not planted bulbs, it's not too late



so long as they are in by end of October. Let me know if you need any more as they are starting to sell out – give your garden a surprise worth waiting for with a selection such as Alliums, Tulips, Narcissus and Muscari.



Autumn Tasks.

There are various tasks to perform over the coming months – here are my Top 9

ONE - Leaf Clearance

Any leaves left on lawns will restrict the light getting to the grass below and will ultimately damage the growth and potentially kill the lawn – so it is best practice to remove the leaves from lawns. Leaves on borders or paths need only be moved for aesthetic reasons – if left on borders they will act as a mulch and over a couple of years break down into a leaf humus. Alternatively collect up the leaves and either put in a secured pile (enclosed compost construction) or place in sealed black bags with drainage – both will create 'Leafmould' which is an organic compost good for future mulching or seed growth



TWO - Lift tender plants

As nights become longer and temperatures drop, some 'summer' plants will need protection using fleece or if possible moved to a frost free location.

Pelargoniums, Cannas, Dahlias and Dicksonia antarctica, to name but a few, will need further protection.

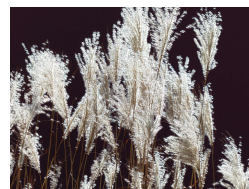
Smaller plants can be brought inside, ideally in a light frost free location which is not centrally heated like your home. Larger plants will need fleecing or a thick layer of mulch applied...ask for details.

THREE – Turn your compost

Should you have a compost area – regularly turn over your pile – this may mean emptying the pile and reloading it. If you don't have a compost area, may be think about creating one as it will create free organic matter for your garden to improve your garden health in the future. Your compost can include grass clippings, leaves, uncooked kitchen vegative waste, cardboard, flower stalks and straw.

FOUR – General Tidy up

Cut back certain plants / perennials to improve garden aesthetics – although if at all unsure best leave until spring as the dead stalks will give winter protection. Ornamental grasses will also give winter interest as the frost collects on their seed heads



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Winter preparation

FIVE – Hedges - Final Trim

The last prune of the year prior to Spring next year is best done by Mid December subject to frosts and / or wet conditions. Ensure a clean cut to limit the spread of fungal diseases – it is good practise to follow up trimming by hedge cutters with a sharp pair of secateurs to tidy up rough cuts.

SIX – Rose pruning

Consider pruning shrub roses by one third to reduce 'wind rock', whereby these beautiful shrubs can be damaged due to the autumnal winds putting pressure on their roots. Further pruning will take place in spring the following year.

SEVEN – Plant Spring Bulbs

Get your spring bulbs in the ground by the end of November -,in general plant at least 2x the depth of the bulb itself.

EIGHT – Drain your hosepipes

Before the frost sets in, drain any access water from your outdoor garden pipes. Those of you who have water timers, best bring them inside or cover with frost protection as the expanding water will render them useless – you won't be needing any outside irrigation until mid spring.

NINE – Wildlife care

Often it's the wildlife which bring further joy to our gardens this time of year, so clean the birdbaths from leaves and debris, plus top up bird feeders.

Also beware of hedgehogs hibernating in leaf / bonfire piles – these creatures are great for munching those pesky slugs!

This Month's Bulb Planting Tips

Squirrels – those of you who have lost planted bulbs previously, try planting in pots and containers with small holed chicken wire placed over the top of the container or just below the surface of the soil. That way the plants will pierce through the holes but stopping Squirrels and other rodents lifting them.

Placement – Rather than placing bulbs on the ground, lightly throw them in the area to be arranged and plant them where they land. Use in odd number multiples of 3 and greater.

This will visually create a more natural affect

EYE ON CKTGS new developments

As you know all your deliveries and servicing are transported using a zero emissions van – this has been especially beneficial during the fuel supply crisis during September & October.



You may be aware that CKTGS already promotes the use of battery operated machinery to cut down on noise and petrol pollution / fumes. By using CKTGS in your garden, you too are contributing to reducing your Carbon foot print.

In addition to the CKTGS equipment, I have invested in a new long reach hedge trimmer – capable of heights of 3.5m – this again is battery operated and will ensure a professional cut to those hard to reach places

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Nordman Fir

Fraser Fir



Noble Fir

Christmas Trees

CKTGS can also supply you with a real Christmas tree – usually there are 3 types to consider:

Nordman fir – a fatter / stockier tree with the least fragrance. This is a needlefast tree – the needles remain on the tree for a longer period. Now the most popular choice of Christmas tree

The Fraser fir – a slimmer yet fuller tree with medium fragrance. This is also a needlefast tree. Good for a room which is tight on space.

The Noble fir – a well proportioned tree with tiered branches. The tree has a glaucous / blue tinge in colour. Needlefast properties with medium fragrance. The rarer of the Christmas trees and possibly the classier or something different to the norm.

All the trees will be pre-drilled and centred at their base to improve on watering and can be supplied with a suitable stand to ensure it is perpendicular. Delivered trees will also be collected after the New Year and recycled.

CKTGS can also supply hand crafted Christmas & seasonal wreaths



Upcoming Events / articles

- **Christmas trees – delivered from December and collected in January.**

Contact Charles for further details

- **Fruit tree & fruit bush pruning**

how and when to prune your fruit trees / shrubs

- **Creating Winter Interest**

how to bring more colour to you garden during winter

- **Spring Lawncare** all you need to know to refresh your lawn from the winter months

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