

AUTUMN PLANTING TIPS

A seasonal guide by Blue Daisy Garden Design

Spring Bulbs for Colour

- Plant tulips in November for best results.
- Plant daffodils, alliums, and crocuses from September–October.
- Plant bulbs at a depth of 2–3 times their size, in well-drained soil.
- Group bulbs in clusters (5, 7 or more) for natural effect.

Perennials & Grasses

- Plant hardy Geraniums, Echinacea, and Rudbeckia now for strong roots next year.
- Add ornamental grasses (e.g., Miscanthus, Calamagrostis) for structure and movement.
- Mix perennials and grasses for a long-lasting, natural look.

Trees & Shrubs

- Autumn is the best time to plant trees and shrubs.
- Choose Amelanchier for blossom, berries, and fiery autumn colour.
- Cornus (Dogwood) for striking winter stems.
- Mahonia for evergreen structure and seasonal interest.

Plants for Wildlife

- Plant Ivy for late nectar and wildlife shelter.
- Add Sedum (Hylotelephium) to support bees and butterflies.
- Consider Pyracantha for berries and evergreen cover for birds.

Garden Preparation

- Clear away tired summer annuals.
- Improve soil with home-made compost or other suitable soil improvers.
- Mulch borders with a 5cm layer to feed soil and insulate roots.
- Plan planting layers: shrubs for structure, perennials for colour, bulbs for seasonal pops.

Tip: Autumn planting gives your garden a head-start for spring – try to reposition autumn as the start of the garden's year, not the end!

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