

The Garden Doctor's Jobs for the Month – December

- ✚ Pick budded stems of Christmas Box (Sarcococca), Viburnum, Wintersweet and Witch Hazel for fragrant winter flowers indoors
- ✚ Create a Christmas wreath using cut winter stems, berries, seed heads and seasonal foliage
- ✚ Continue to dig new planting areas
- ✚ Prune overgrown deciduous hedges such as hornbeam and beech
- ✚ Take hardwood cuttings of climbers such as wisteria, vines and Virginia creeper
- ✚ Continue to remove fallen leaves from borders and rock gardens where small plants may be smothered
- ✚ Protect vulnerable garden plants with bark mulches or straw and fleece if freezing conditions threaten
- ✚ Clear away old crops in the vegetable garden and dig in bulky organic matter such as garden compost or well-rotted horse manure
- ✚ Harvest celery, beetroot, turnips, sprouts and carrots
- ✚ Earth-up tall Brussels sprout stems to support them against winds
- ✚ Heel-in bare root fruit trees or bushes in a spare corner of the garden if they arrive when conditions are not suitable for planting
- ✚ Browse seed catalogues and send off orders to ensure your desired varieties do not sell out
- ✚ Continue to prune apple and pear trees providing frosty conditions are not forecast
- ✚ Put your feet up and enjoy a mince pie and a glass of mulled wine whilst reflecting on another successful gardening year
- ✚ Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!