



Monthly Growing Guide January 2025

Happy New Year, growers!

In January...

... the soil is not yet ready to be worked and may be cold and wet. It is a good time to add organic, bulky material such as compost or well rotted manure. These can be forked into the soil or simply placed on top (top dressing). Here are some tasks that we can undertake in January.

Sowing Indoors in Pots or Trays

Winter Salads, Greens, Oriental Vegetables. Onion and Shallot seeds for planting out as young plants in Spring. Broad Beans and Lettuce for an early start. Sow mixed winter salad leaves every three weeks for a regular supply.

Sowing Outdoors into Soil or Containers.

Garlic and hardy beans such as Aqua Dulce.



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Tasks

- *Collect rainwater for garden use.*
- *Clear away storm debris and fallen leaves.*
- *Compost leaves separately to make leaf mould.*
- *Clean, sharpen and safely store tools.*
- *Continue organic Wildlife Management Measures. Use no chemicals.*
- *Move tender plants growing in pots or containers indoors.*
- *Use net or fleece to protect brassica from birds.*
- *Plant bare root fruit trees, bushes and canes.*
- *Earth up or stake Brussels Sprouts to protect from wind.*
- *Prune apple and pear trees and gooseberries and currants.*
- *Check ties on fruit trees after storms.*
- *Protect tender plants from cold with fleece or polythene.*
- *Prepare new Strawberry beds with manure or compost.*
- *Cover emerging rhubarb crowns with forcing bins, if desired.*
- *Make outline planting plan for Spring and order seeds.*



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Harvest

Brussels Sprouts, Winter Greens, Parsnips, Leeks, Chard, Kale and Jerusalem Artichokes.

Wildlife

- *Ensure birds baths and other water sources are full clean and free of debris.*
- *Avoid turning compost piles to avoid disturbing insects or small animals who are overwintering.*
- *Top up fat balls, seed balls and other food sources for birds.*

Tip of the Month

Dress warmly when in your growing space in January. Wear footwear that will protect your feet from cold, wet conditions.