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Top plants for January by Gabriel Ash

Article published on January 20th 2012 | Gardening

If you wish to begin sprucing up your garden for the New Year, then there are a number of plants that are suitable for January. In addition to planting, you can also take steps to ensure that your garden is tidy after the winter period. Carrying out general garden maintenance will enable you to prepare your garden for when spring approaches.

January is an ideal time to plant new trees or shrubs such as heather and making sure that any newly planted shrubs have not been damaged by frost. Thick, dry mulch will enable you to protect roots from winter conditions. If you have any leftover dead leaves in your garden, then use them to create compost.

Lily bulbs can also be planted in January. You can plant these in boxes or pots and if you own a greenhouse, they can be housed in there. Pansy and geranium seeds, along with other early flowers, can also be sown during this month for summer flowering.

To protect your January bulbs or seeds, you can consider planting in a greenhouse or moving your plants to a set of cold frames. A greenhouse or set of cold frames enables you to extend the growing season and you can easily plant a selection of your favourite plants.

If you wish to start growing a selection of vegetables early, then tomatoes and potatoes can be planted during January. New potatoes or early potatoes are usually planted from January to March and will need to be kept well protected from pests and diseases. Tomatoes seeds can be sown in pots indoors using moist but not waterlogged compost.

Roses are also an ideal plant for January. However, you will need to select roses that are suitable for the conditions of your garden and the climate of the area that you live in. When planting roses, avoid planting them in areas where you have planted roses previously as this can lead to disease. If your garden is susceptible to disease, then select roses that are disease resistant.

When planting during January, make sure that the conditions of your garden is suitable for your plants. Remove any dead winter bulbs or weeds and check for pests. You will also need to ensure that your garden tools are in a suitable condition and ready for use after being stored away during the winter.

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Article Keywords:
gardening, garden, winter, greenhouse, cold frame

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