

# Rachel Barrowcliffe MCIHort     Autumn Gardens



I want a beautiful garden...

GARDEN MENTORING • ADVICE • REDESIGN

# A little bit about me...

Self employed gardener since 1985.

Member of the Chartered Institute of Horticulture.

Head gardener at The Tropical Butterfly House.

Gardener to Sir Andrew and Lady Belinda Buchanan at Hodsock Priory.

Garden advice and Planting Plans

Tel 07835791346 .





**Christmas Wreath Workshops**

## What NOT to prune in Autumn

Cherries both ornamental and fruiting,  
Plums, Nectarine, Peach and Almond.

Silver leaf is a fungal disease caused by *Chondrostereum purpureum*. It infects through wounds, mainly caused by pruning. Leaf silvering occurs during summer and fruiting bodies form from late summer.

Symptoms **On leaves:** Leaves develop a silvery sheen, especially noticeable in plums but less so in other trees. Following the appearance of the silvery sheen, affected branches die

**On branches:** When affected branches are cut across, an irregular dark stain may be seen in the centre, not necessarily corresponding to the heartwood. On older dead branches, bracket-shaped fungi appear. These have a whitish woolly upper surface and a purple-brown lower surface with fine pores



## What not to prune in Autumn

Kerria

Ceanothus

Choisya

Weigela

Philadelphus

Ribes

Forsythia

Spirea Bridal wreath

Camellia

Hydrangea



## What to prune in Autumn

Last chance to trim deciduous hedges to keep them looking tidy over the winter.

Climbing roses should be pruned now if not done last month.

Shrubs normally pruned hard in the spring such as *Buddleja davidii*, *Cornus alba*, and *Lavatera*, can be cut back by half now, to prevent wind rock and to neaten their appearance

Roses can be pruned in November and then checked in March for any die back. By pruning now this helps prevent wind rock.



## Pruning technique, top pruning rule

When cutting back a plant, remember the three Ds: remove anything that is **dead, damaged** and **diseased**.

From there, you should remove any branches that are weak, rubbing, growing inwards or crossing over each other. Then cut back any overgrown branches to balance the shape.

## How to prune trees and shrubs

Decide on an overall shape before you start. I aim for a wine glass or goblet outline with trees, and a symmetrical shape with shrubs. It's best to work with the natural shape of the plant and aim for a balanced shape that suits the space it has available.

Aim to remove one fifth to one third of stems. Remove one branch at a time and regularly step back to check your work. Once you've made the cut it's too late to change your mind! If you're removing a whole branch, cut it back to the trunk but not flush – cut next to the branch collar (the swelling where the branch and trunk join).

If you're shortening a branch, you should always cut just above a healthy bud, pair of buds or side shoot. This is because new branches will grow from the next bud below the point where you cut.

Aim for a gap of 0.5cm between your cut and the bud. If you cut too close you may damage the bud, but if you leave a large gap the excess branch may rot and expose the plant to infections.

Try to prune back to an out-facing bud. If you choose one that faces inwards, all the new branches will grow in towards the centre of the tree, making it look messy and tangled.

If you can, make the cut at a 45 degree angle to stop moisture collecting at the wound. This will help it heal faster.

And make sure to avoid branches with nests – the birds won't be using them at the moment but many species return to the same nests year on year.



## How to remove large branches

It is easiest to do this in stages using a sharp saw. Remove most of the branch first, cutting 20cm from where it joins the trunk. Then remove the remaining stub.

The best technique is to start with an undercut. Make a small cut from the underneath of the branch first, then cut in from the top all the way through to meet the undercut. This prevents the bark from tearing as you saw through the branch.

Once you have removed the first part of the branch, remove the stub using the same technique with the undercut. Cut back to the collar, rather than flush with the trunk.

Angle the cut sloping downwards and away from the trunk so rainwater will not collect and cause rotting.

**Sealing wounds** It is not recommended to use wound paint to seal the spots where branches have been removed. The RHS found that it has no effect, except for plum and cherry trees







# Garden hygiene



# Autumn Pest and disease watch

**Garden hygiene** helps prevent pests and disease being carried over from one year to the next. **Rake up and destroy - do not compost** - any affected leaves. Diseases such as black spot on roses, leaf blight on quince, and scab on apples and pears can all be partially controlled in this way.

**Honey fungus** toadstools begin to appear in late September and early October, indicating possible areas of infection. However, there are also many harmless, saprophytic fungi appearing at this time of year, living purely on dead material and pose no threat to garden plants. If the plants look healthy, then there shouldn't be cause for concern.

Watch out for fungal diseases such as **grey mould (Botrytis)** or **powdery mildew**. Although less common on shrubs than on herbaceous plants, they may still cause problems when the weather is conducive.

Cultural controls are more effective than sprays at this time of year. Pruning to increase ventilation, and prompt removal of affected leaves, flowers or fruits is crucial. When pruning, take the opportunity to examine branches for signs of disease. Small cankers, die-back, and rotten, hollow stumps at the centre of old shrub bases, are best removed early on, before they spread.

# Mulching.

Mulching is generally used to improve the soil around plants, but it also gives your garden a neat, tidy appearance and can reduce the amount of time spent on tasks such as watering and weeding. Mulches help soil retain moisture in summer, prevent weeds from growing and protect the roots of plants in winter.

- **Types of mulch**
- **Leaf Mold**
- **Garden compost**
- **Well-rotted manure**
- **Bark**
- **Cocoa shell**
- **Gravel**
- **Grass clippings**
- **Chopped organic wheat straw**
- **Polished pebbles and crushed shells**



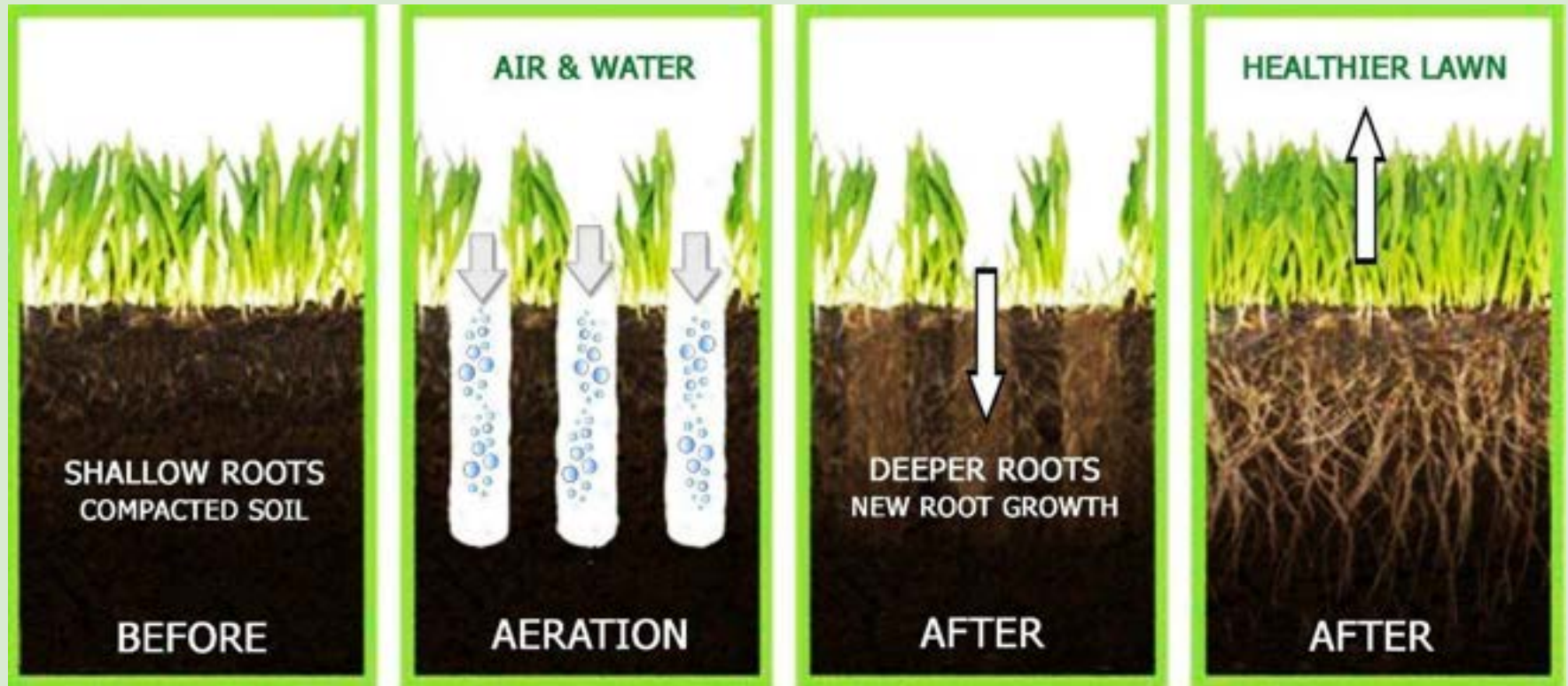
# September Lawns

The beginning of the autumn is a busy time for the serious lawn enthusiast. Your lawn care routine will change slightly. You will find that you need to mow less as temperatures begin to get cooler and the days start to become shorter. Applying an autumn fertiliser with moss killer is a good idea if your lawn has a problem with moss and can help your lawn stay strong and healthy during the winter. You can scarify your lawn now to remove thatch build up. And you may want to aerate your lawn with a hollow tine aerator. If you have bare patches on your lawn, the early autumn can be a good time to add some lawn seed. The weather is still warm enough so that the seeds can germinate but not so warm that they dehydrate. Sticking to a thorough lawn care routine throughout the autumn can help your lawn throughout the colder winter months.



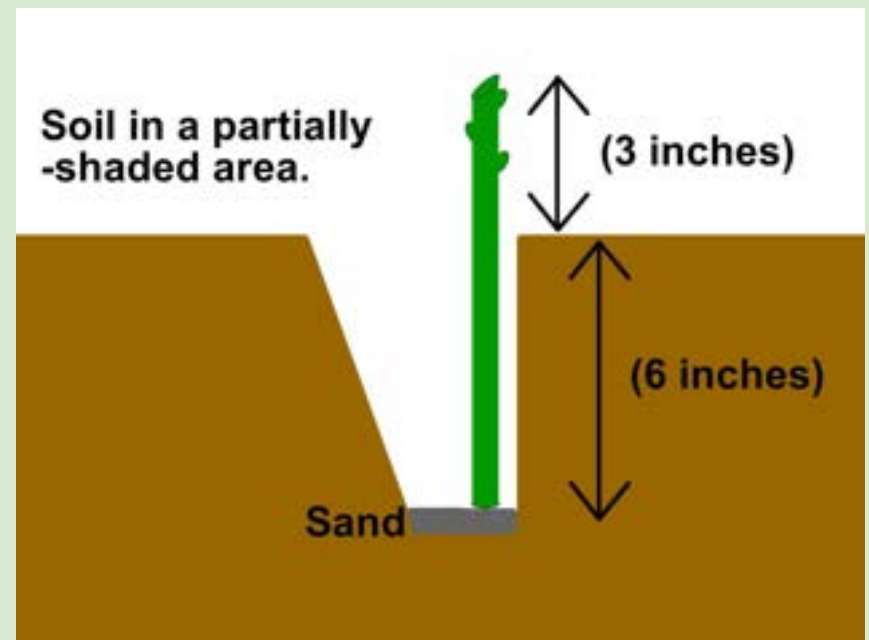
# October Lawns

You should now raise the cutting height of your mower. If you have yet to apply a winter fertiliser or turf hardener to your lawn then this month is your last chance. Keep your lawn clear of any fallen leaves. A covering of leaves on your lawn can cause problems with damp and disease. If you do this once a week it makes it easier to keep on top of. October can be another good month to aerate your lawn. Early October is also a good time to top dress and overseed. Usually a mixture of 70/30% sterilised sand and loam is used.



## Hardwood cuttings

Hardwood cuttings provide an easy and reliable method of propagating a range of deciduous climbers, trees and shrubs, and as bonus, they are taken from mid-autumn until late winter when more time is usually available to the gardener. Some evergreen plants, hollies for example, can also be taken at the same time of year as other hardwood cuttings



## Suitable for...

Most **deciduous shrubs** including:

*Abelia*, *Deutzia*, *Buddleja* (butterflybush), *Cornus* (dogwood), *Forsythia*, *Philadelphus* (mock orange) *Ribes* (flowering currant), *Rosa* (rose), and *Symphoricarpos* and viburnums.

Many **climbers** can be propagated by hard wood cuttings:

*Vitis* (vines), *Lonicera* (honeysuckle), *Jasminum*, and *Parthenocissus*.

**Fruit**, including:

gooseberries, black, red and white currants, fig, mulberry.

**Trees**, including:

*Platanus* (plane), *Populus* (poplars) and *Salix* (willow)

Although usually restricted to deciduous plants,

some **evergreen** cuttings can be taken at the same time as hardwood cuttings including *Cotoneaster*, *Ilex* (holly), *Ligustrum* (privet)



# Lasagne layering Spring flowering bulbs

**By choosing bulbs that flower in different months you can have a continuous display of spring flowers from Feb to May.**

Start with a pot that is at least 12 inches (30cm) wide and 12 inches (30cm) deep. Make sure there are drainage holes in the bottom so excess water can escape otherwise bulbs and plants will go rotten. Add crocks for drainage if you wish. Settle a layer of compost in the bottom of the pot then add a layer of tulips, tulips need to be planted at least 8 inches deep (20cm) to prevent tulip blight. Plant bulbs pointy end to the sky. Bulbs can be planted quite close together but not so close that they touch. Cover the bulbs with a layer of compost.

Complete the process until you have used all the bulbs you need. Remember to leave an inch (2cm) gap between top of the compost and the rim of the pot. This enables you to water the pot without “runoff.”



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LOUNGE  
EST. 2017

OW  
OP



tie's  
LOUNGE  
EST: 2011

LOW  
OP









Triumph Tulip  
**Purple Flag**  
HT 60cm - 100cm

Tulip Triumph HT 18" / 45cm April  
**Holland Beauty**

250

200

RS

QUALITY BULBS















