

# Seasons in the Garden

## Spring Growth

After a long winter, spring has arrived! Early flowers start to bloom, and the weather gets a little warmer. Keep your garden clear of weeds by removing them while they are small, ideally soon after it has rained so they come out easily. If it has been a harsh winter, you may also need to top up your soil with some nutrient-rich compost.

Now is also the time to start your veggie patch! You can sow beetroot, carrots, spring onions, lettuce, and radish in the spring. If space is a problem, you could grow a strawberry plant in a hanging basket.

## Warm Summers

During the hot summer months, it's important to water your plants so they don't dry up. Use a watering can (or hose) early in the morning or in the early evening. (If you do it during the day, lots of the water escapes in the heat).

Summer is the time to enjoy your garden, pick crops such as lettuce, and make the most of the longer days. Watch the bees and butterflies and keep flowers looking their best by "deadheading"—carefully snipping away fading flower heads.

What season are you in right now?

## Leafy Fall

When the leaves start to fall from the trees and the weather starts to cool, we know that Fall has arrived! This is the perfect time to pick any remaining fruits or vegetables—and help garden wildlife get ready for winter. You could put up a nest box for birds or place bundles of sticks for insects to find shelter.

## Frosty Winters

Winter is the quietest (and coldest!) time of the year in the garden, but there is still lots to do, including planning what you will grow next year. Garden wildlife needs plenty of help during the chilly months, so putting out some high-fat food for birds is a great idea, especially if you don't have many berries growing in your garden.

If you've planted any veggies that finish growing in the winter—such as parsnips, leeks, or winter cabbages, wrap up warm and head outside to pick them before the snow comes. If you want to grow fruit bushes such as raspberries or blackberries, now is the time to plant them.