

Your garden in October – taking stock

The autumn is a perfect time to reflect on how well your garden has worked for you over the summer, and to think about how you could get even more use and enjoyment from it.

Are your borders still putting on a good show, or did most flowers fade away by midsummer? You can prolong the summer by adding late flowering plants and grasses that will give your borders a boost at this time of year. Check out what's still in flower at the garden centre, making sure any new plants are suitable for the conditions in your garden.

Now is the time to be ordering and planting spring bulbs. Bulbs are the ultimate low maintenance plants. Once in the ground, they grow, flower, die back and often multiply in number without you having to lift a finger. *Alliums*, with their purple drumstick flowerheads, flower in May and June and are great for bridging the gap between spring and summer.

To prevent lavender plants getting woody and leggy, give them a light trim now to remove the flowers, and again in early spring and they will stay nice and bushy. Don't cut beyond the point where there is



Allium sphaerocephalon

green growth or it may not regrow!

If you are thinking about more major landscaping work, then now is the ideal time to start planning. If you want your garden to be ready to enjoy next summer, don't wait until the spring before starting. Good contractors get booked up very quickly and you may find yourself having to wait until next autumn!