



# garden4me

BRINGING THE JOY OF GARDENING TO EVERYBODY

## Autumn gardening in your garden4me raised planter

Autumn is a beautiful time of year with the trees changing colour for everyone to enjoy - cool nights and sunny days are the recipe for the best autumnal shades, so let's hope for a great display this year.

Although we can still have some warmer days at the start of autumn it will start to feel colder as we move into October and November. But remember our raised planters can provide a beautiful display all year round so you don't need to leave them empty – re-plant now with fresh winter flowering plants and you'll have a great display to keep your outdoor space looking beautiful during the darker days.

Just one of the benefits of gardening in one of our garden4me raised planters is that the double-walled construction will keep roots warm so you will be able to grow right through the autumn and winter months as roots will stay protected from the cold and frost.

### Handy seasonal tips

Continue to feed and dead-head flowering plants - they will often keep going until the first frosts. You can keep your raised planter in colour by taking the dead or fading blooms off regularly – add a liquid feed into the self-watering reservoir and they'll stay happily fed and watered.

And if you've been growing bedding plants that are starting to fade then clear them away to make way for some autumn flowering varieties such as chrysanthemums, sedum, violas and winter bedding plants and keep the colour going – combine with grasses for a lovely autumn display.

Dahlias are easy to grow in a garden4me planter and should be a mass of colour at this time of year, producing their best displays. Keep taking off the faded blooms to encourage new ones to appear.



Whatever you decide to plant, why not tuck some bulbs in the compost underneath the plants for flowering in spring – try daffodils, hyacinths, crocus and iris. They like good drainage so will thrive in garden4me planters – the compost doesn't waterlog as roots take up just the water they need using the capillary action.

You can easily create an autumn and winter display in your raised planter that will require minimum maintenance. For instant impact, outdoor chrysanthemums are sold in full flower now so just add into position. You can also find decorative brassicas with beautiful shades from deep purple to white, brilliant greens, mauves and pink that form rosettes of plain or frilly foliage – they look wonderful and will last late into winter/early spring. Ornamental grasses can give shape and add height while pretty, trailing ivies will soften the edges of your container. Add Heucheras for spots of colour and depth.



Heathers will also give you a colourful display – they are easy to grow and long-flowering - the ideal low-maintenance plant. Winter-flowering heathers have another great attribute - they are bee-friendly – they are a lifeline for bumblebees and solitary bees, which do not store food and emerge in mild spells in winter and early spring. Don't forget heathers need ericaceous compost – if you're using our growing pockets then it's easy to make sure you have the right compost for the right plant.

It's not too soon to start thinking about a Christmas display in your raised planter – you can start to sow some amaryllis and hyacinths which will be ready in time for the festive season and will make a lovely addition to your outdoor Christmas décor. And add in some red and white cyclamens and mix with pretty winter-flowering pansies and violas for colour and for texture, evergreen ferns.

## **Vegetables & Fruit**

If you've been growing vegetables in your planter then this is a good time for an autumn clean-up. Remove crops that have finished – you don't need to replace the capillary mat or compost – just add a top layer of compost and you're ready to go for your next planting.

Did you know you can grow mangetout, peas and beans in your raised planter? Now is the time to harvest them - simply cut the plants away at ground level, leaving the roots in the compost. These crops slowly release nitrogen back into the compost as the roots break down.

By October your outdoor tomatoes will be ready to harvest - move fruit indoors to ripen or make some green tomato chutney. Remove all old and finished plants.

Plant garlic, onions and shallots now before the weather turns cold. Your garden4me raised planter will keep the soil warm so the bulbs should root strongly giving great results and a bumper crop next season.

November is a good month to sow cut-and-come-again salads and hardy herbs – so if your planter is outside your kitchen door then you'll have an ongoing supply to hand whenever you need it.





## Did you know ...

You can extend our growing season into winter and protect growth by using one of our garden4me polytunnel kits – available to buy from our website.

