

TIME TO WARM UP: EXPERT REVEALS THE COMMON MISTAKES THAT COULD BE SACRIFICING A BLOOMING SUMMER GARDEN

- A gardening expert has revealed that Brits aspiring to have a gorgeous, growing garden this summer should be cracking on with essential jobs now
- B&Q's Head of Horticulture, Mairi Devlin, has unveiled a fool-proof guide to *warm up* for the hotter season, with a list of must-have items to speed along prep, from [heated propagators](#) to [tap covers](#)
- Starting at just **£6.98**, all essential summer gardening gadgets are available in B&Q stores nationwide now, or online at [diy.com](#)

20TH JANUARY 2024, LONDON - *Fighting the frost!* With Brits across the country feeling the 'New Year, New Start' motivation, many will be looking at refreshing their homes, but an expert has revealed that one key January job is overlooked – gardening.

Although temperatures have plummeted and the nation is keeping cosy inside, **B&Q's Head of Horticulture, Mairi Devlin**, has revealed that neglecting to do the essential gardening groundwork in the winter could sacrifice a blooming garden come summer. In fact, whilst B&Q searches for essential gardening items nearly triple from February to March (277%), they peak in late Spring, proving that Brits often leave gardening at the bottom of the to-do list until it's too late.

B&Q's Head of Horticulture, Mairi Devlin, says: "It may seem like there are fewer jobs in the garden in the first couple of months of the year, however the work you do to prepare now will make your gardening tasks easier come the summer. Neglecting essential jobs like pruning and composting may mean that spring bulbs don't have the nourished environment they need to bloom and grow in the season ahead. This is the season where thoughtful care and planning pay off."

To help Brits through their gardening gripes and winter woes, Mairi has broken down a handy 'How To' guide, month by month, to guide the nation to summertime splendour.

JANUARY

Mairi says: "*January is the time to organise. Start thinking about what your dream summer garden look like and what you need to bring it life. Perhaps even start a garden journal for the year, where you can document plans and progress, month by month.*"

January is the perfect time to plant summer blooming plants such as Dahlias and Gladiolus, planting these now will ensure a beautiful, colourful garden to spend time in during the warmer months. Just make sure to cover vulnerable plants using a horticultural fleece such as the [Verve White Plastic Fleece](#) and insulate outdoor taps with a cover to protect them from the cold."

Mairi's key jobs for January:

- Start your garden journal for 2025
- Plant early flowers
- Insulate outdoor taps with a tap cover

FEBRUARY

Mairi says: "*Another important task is to start preparing the ground for new beds to ensure*

that anything that is planted has the best possible environment to grow. Start by removing weeds from beds and laying black polythene such as this [Black Heavy Duty Polythene Plastic Building Dust Rubble Sheet DIY](#) on the soil where you're planning to plant, this gives it the opportunity to warm it up ahead of planting.

Now is also a good time to prune your trees and shrubs, but only the oldest branches. These early months are also the perfect time to replace any rusty or broken gardening tools, so you have the best kit for the brighter months."

Mairi's key jobs for February:

- Weed and prepare your beds
- Prune trees and shrubs
- Start using a propagator to germinate your seedlings
- Replace any rusty or broken gardening tools
- Put out wild bird feed to help local wildlife – full range available [here](#)

MARCH




Mairi says: "March is the start of spring and the perfect time to prepare your garden for the busy growing season ahead. Begin by tidying your beds, clearing debris, and enriching the soil with compost or fertiliser. Start sowing hardy crops directly into the soil and planting early fruits and vegetables – like tomatoes that can be planted 6-8 weeks after the last frost and are perfect in a summer salad! Now is also a good time to check and maintain your gardening tools to ensure they're ready for the months to come. If they're looking a little worse for wear, stock up on some essentials for the season ahead – the [Gardena Garden tool set](#) is a great kit for starting out.

Mairi's Key Jobs for March:

- Weed and mulch your borders to suppress weeds and retain moisture
- Sow hardy vegetables like carrots, parsnips, and broad beans outdoors
- Plant early crops, including potatoes, onion sets, and garlic
- Mow the lawn for the first time, setting the mower to a high cut
- Clean and sharpen tools to keep them in top condition

Mairi recommends:

		
<p>Verve White Plastic Fleece, (L)2m (W)1.5m, Pack of 3 - £9.00</p>	<p>Dial External Black Tap cover - £6.98</p>	<p>Tree Pruner Telescopic Saw Lopper Shears Pruning Extending Cutter Garden Tool - £22.99</p>

		
<u>Stewart Heated Propagator</u> - £19	<u>Gardena Garden tool set</u> - £40	<u>Black Heavy Duty Polythene Plastic Building Dust Rubble Sheet DIY</u> - £29.99

All products are available in store and online at [diy.com](https://www.diy.com), with the full gardening guide available [here](#).

ENDS

Notes to editors

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B&Q launched the UK's first home improvement marketplace in March 2022, adding additional choice for consumers. The marketplace offers a unique, integrated experience with in-store returns for many products and Click + Collect options being explored.

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