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Jobs to tackle in November

Start planting tulip bulbs for next spring's display.

Divide crowded perennials and ornamental grasses – lever clumps apart using a couple of garden forks positioned back to back. Use a spade to sever any tough plants. Aim for clumps no smaller than your fist and replant to the same depth as before.

Plant bare root trees, shrubs and roses. Keep the roots covered at all times until plants are in the ground.

Finish planting up tubs and baskets with colourful winter pansies and polyanthus.

Prune back long shoots on tall bush roses by a third to stop plants being rocked loose in strong winds.

Use special pot feet (available from garden centres) or bricks to raise containers off the ground to ensure good drainage. That way, the pots won't sit in standing water and crack during severe frosts.

Clean, oil and sharpen all your gardening tools before storing them away for the winter. Cover wooden garden furniture to protect it from the winter weather.

Drain hoses and pond pumps so that they don't freeze and crack.

Clean out bird boxes and start putting out fresh water and food.

Last chance to create new lawns from turf – pick a dry day when the soil isn't waterlogged or frozen.

Dig over the vegetable patch. Leave the soil in large clumps – the winter weather will break it down into a crumbly finish.

Check that your houseplants aren't drying out from central heating. Move them to a cooler spot if necessary and keep them moist but not wet.

PICTURE SUPPLIED BY EARTH DESIGNS

Above This space draws on Moroccan influences with African slate flooring,

a pretty mosaic water feature and rustic-style furniture made from railway sleepers

front. With space at a premium at the back, choose well-behaved wall shrubs instead of big, spreading shrubs. Good choices would be *Ceanothus*, *Chaenomales* and *Garrya elliptica* – the gorgeous silk tassel bush – pruned and trained tight to the boundary. For an oriental feel, try tidy clump-forming bamboos like *Fargesia nitida* and grasses like *Miscanthus*; both are tall but thin.

For the middle tier, plant smaller evergreens such as Christmas box, sage, *Cistus*, *Pittosporum* 'Nanum' and the smaller deciduous *Viburnums*, depending on the aspect. Mix in stalwart perennials, like Japanese anemones, *Geranium phaeum* and ferns for shade, with asters, *Echinacea*, *Linaria* and *Lysimachia* for sunny aspects.

Plant the pockets in the front tier with ground cover perennials such as silver *Stachys byzantina*, *Ajuga*, catmint, ornamental dead nettles and low-growing thyme. Sprinkle a few bulbs throughout for added interest in this space.

Incorporate storage

Built-in seating can conceal cupboards underneath where you can store tools and cushions. A shed is harder to incorporate as you don't want it to dominate the space. Painting it an earthy green, fixing on some trellis and installing an eco-friendly 'green living' roof will make it feel part of the garden. If you have a Victorian outside WC, you can disguise it in the same way. If you can view the whole garden from your house, don't put a new orange-coloured shed against the wall opposite a window as your eye will be drawn to this rather than the rest of the garden. 🏠

Next month: Your seasonal gardening questions answered

start from around £200 – try UK WaterFeatures.com for ideas.

For hassle-free installation, buy a feature where the sump (water reservoir), pump and fittings are all included. Many kits also come with waterproof lighting, or add your own to transform your courtyard or patio.

Devise a planting scheme

If you want border planting rather than a potted plants scheme, you'll need to pare down your choices as the depth of borders can be narrow – choose plants that perform all year round or help to define space.

Plant up the boundaries first with climbers, then layer plants down in front of them, finishing with the smallest at the

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