

# Getting ready for spring – the greenhouse

Folk who don't work in the garden think that everything stops in winter. Well I wish I could tell you it does but unfortunately winter is when you get everything ready for spring's arrival.

There is so much to do from cleaning the greenhouse to feeding the soil to organising and planning for planting.

There are obviously things that you do every year and therefore you are already ahead of the game as you are organised and planned for in your head but if you throw anything new into the mix, there's a whole new batch of organising to be done.

## The coming year

We've decided that we are going to try something new in the coming year. We've already had success with our various veg growing adventures so next year we are going to add flowers to this. Now before you say, "hang on we've seen pictures of your garden and it's full of flowers." Let me explain.

We don't grow our flowers, we buy them all ready to plant from a local nursery. For next year we want to try growing our own plug plants from seed. We have accepted that this might not be the success we hope for but if not we still have the option to buy plants from the nursery. If it does work out, well we will have the chance to increase our range of flowers to include those our local nursery doesn't carry and save on car trips.

All this excitement will mean the greenhouse will see more use than normal over the spring and summer months so I am going to have to get thinking about how I'm going to do this.

## Pots



Lots more seedlings equals lots more pots required also equals lots more space to store pots and lots more money buying pots.

### **Solution: newspaper pots**

Kate has bought me a widget that I'm keen to try out. It is so that I can make the pots for my seedlings out of newspaper. Cheap, biodegradable, takes up less space and a bit of fun too.

## Space



My greenhouse isn't huge, just 8' by 6', and I struggle for space a bit each year as it is so I need to find a way to fit my usual tomatoes, courgettes etc in there with the new flower seedlings too.

### **Solution: little plants and less of them**

Well this one is down to me not going mad with multiple varieties of things I'm afraid. I have a tendency to grow three or four of each variety of tomato or courgette taking up

huge amounts of space. This year I am going to force myself to stick to a small number of plants and only those which we've already had success with.

I'm also going to grow smaller bush varieties where I can.