



SEPTEMBER–NOVEMBER / EQUIPMENT THAT LASTS

Clean. Dry. Put away.

Autumn care for tools, pots, supports and the greenhouse

Choose a mild, dry day, and tackle one group of equipment at a time. Set out three places: ready to store, still drying and needs repair. Keep tools you use for winter harvests easy to reach.

A simple end-of-season routine

ITEM	CLEAN AND CHECK	STORE READY TO USE
Spades, forks and hoes	Brush or wash off soil. Inspect handles, joints and metal for damage. Dry thoroughly.	Use a light protective oil on suitable metal parts, following the maker's advice. Store under cover with sharp edges protected.
Secateurs and cutters	Remove sap and debris. Check the blade and moving parts. Sharpen only with a suitable tool and the correct method.	Dry and lubricate as directed. Lock closed. Put damaged tools aside for repair rather than back into use.
Pots and seed trays	Empty, brush out and wash with warm soapy water. Rinse well, including drainage holes.	Let them dry before stacking. Keep frost-vulnerable empty pots under cover.
Canes, ties and netting	Remove soil and old ties. Check for cracks, sharp ends and trapped wildlife before folding.	Dry and bundle canes. Fold netting into a labelled bag so it cannot trail or entangle wildlife.

Cleaning comes before disinfecting

Routine dirt removal and drying matter. If a known plant disease calls for disinfection, follow advice for that disease and a suitable product's label. Do not improvise chemical mixtures or use a stronger dilution.

[Next: Seed storage & lifespan – sort your seed packets too](#)



AUTUMN GREENHOUSE / CLEAN BETWEEN CROPS

Let the light in.

A greenhouse reset after the summer crops have finished

Wait until the crop has finished, or work section by section. Give any plants moved out a sheltered place and return them before they become chilled. Choose weather that suits the plants you grow, not simply a date in the diary.

Work from empty space to clean space

- ☐ **Empty and sort.** Remove finished crops, spare pots and ties; separate suspect plant material.
- ☐ **Brush first.** Collect loose debris from the floor, staging and frame corners.
- ☐ **Wash the glazing.** Use warm water and a soft cloth inside and out. Avoid abrasive tools, especially on plastic panels.
- ☐ **Clean staging and pots.** Scrub the shelves; wash pots and propagation equipment separately, then rinse.
- ☐ **Clear reachable gutters.** Remove leaves and check that downpipes are not blocked.
- ☐ **Dry and inspect.** Ventilate while drying. Check panes, fixings, doors and vents before moving equipment back.

Keep the clean-up within reach

Never lean your weight on greenhouse glazing or over its roof. Use suitable long-handled tools from a stable position. Arrange help for damaged panes or work you cannot safely reach.

Leave yourself a spring-ready shelf

Group clean trays and pots by size. Put readable labels, a pencil and usable ties together. Keep a short repair list so a split handle or faulty vent does not get forgotten over winter.

Repair or replace: _____

Ready for next season: _____