



## NOVEMBER

### TO-DO LIST

- Prune back summer-flowering clematis (C-types such as *Clematis jackmanii*) and pull away the dead mass of stems. Don't prune clematis that flower on old wood. Do this after they have bloomed.
- Deadhead roses for the last time this season and prune lightly for winter. Cut back rose bushes by a third to prevent them being rocked and their roots dislodged by wind.

- Finish planting spring-flowering bulbs—tulips, daffodils, crocuses and snowdrops—and don't miss the chance to fill the garden with several varieties of allium, especially *Allium aflatunense* and *A. christophii*.
- Plant new hedges and move conifers that have been growing in containers into permanent locations in the garden.
- Prepare the ground where you intend to plant bare-root roses over winter.
- Plant a container for winter colour: try heuchera, skimmia, euphorbia, gaultheria, nandina and ajuga as well as variegated shrubs like euonymus, pieris and aucuba and grasses like *Carex 'Evergold'*.
- Rake leaves. Use disease-free leaves around shrubs as a natural mulch, and shred the rest with your lawn mower and add to the compost bin.
- Do not cut every grass and perennial to the ground in your cleanup. Many of them can look very attractive left to be beautified by frosts and snow over winter.
- Apply dolomite lime to lawns to reduce acidity caused by winter rains. Liming "sweetens" the soil by raising the pH (the measure of the acidity or alkalinity—the higher the pH, the more alkaline). Grass requires a medium pH, neither too acidic or too alkaline.
- Start amaryllis bulbs indoors. Early varieties will bloom in time for Christmas.