



Jim Buttress' *Tips for* *October 2021*

- 1. Prune tall-growing shrubs that are hard pruned in Spring, such as Lavatera and Buddleia, by half to reduce wind rock.*
- 2. Apply barrier glue or grease bands to apple and pear trees, to prevent wingless winter moth females from crawling into the trees to lay their eggs.*
- 3. Leave mature ivy plants unpruned. The flowers provide a valuable late source of nectar for insects and the berries are food for birds.*
- 4. Take hardwood cuttings (1ft) 30cms long from gooseberries and currants. Insert into slit trenches or pots of compost. Make a slanted cut at the top of the cutting and a horizontal cut at the bottom.*
- 5. For early flowers, sow sweetpeas indoors this month, or next. Sow the seeds in root trainers or 3 inch pots. Keep the young plants in a cold frame or unheated greenhouse over winter.*
- 6. Plant or lift and divide rhubarb this month. Remove dead leaves to expose the crown to frost. This will help ensure a good crop of stalks next year. When dividing rhubarb only replant the outside sections of the crown.*
- 7. Cut down asparagus and mound up the soil in the rows.*
- 8. Blackberries or hybrid berries such as Tay berries and loganberries can be pruned now. Most produce fruit on the previous season's growth so, after harvesting, prune off fruited canes at ground level and tie in the new canes.*
- 9. Sow broad beans toward the end of October. Hardier cultivars can overwinter to produce an early crop next year and avoid attack from blackfly.*