

Nature's Calendar

Autumn 2005



This is a good time to plant trees. Visit a local garden centre to see what special offers they have on bare rooted trees and pick one that is suitable for your garden.

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This is the time to plant bulbs in your garden. Daffodils, tulips and other bulbs should be planted now so that they will come up in the spring. Visit your local garden centre and supermarket for good deals on bulbs.

REMEMBER...

- if you can, walk or cycle to school....
- turn off lights when you leave the room....
- close curtains at night to keep the heat in....
- have a car free day at home once a month....
- recycle Christmas cards....
- feed the birds....
- reduce, reuse, recycle...

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Clean up your garden in the autumn leaves, twigs, fruit and other debris end up in your garden. Now is a good time to collect all these for your compost heap. By this time next year you will have wonderful compost for your plants.

Encourage birds to your garden by feeding them nuts, fruit, fat, seeds, wet bread and even cooked meat.

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Nesting Although birds will not breed until the spring some search for nesting sites in late autumn so now is good time to put up nesting boxes. There are two main types of nest boxes, one with an open front and the other with a small hole on the front. Different birds choose different boxes. Place it in a sheltered spot away from direct sunlight and prevailing winds so as to protect the young inside.

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If you don't have one already, set up a bird bath in your garden. It is very important for birds to have water to drink and to clean themselves with. A lid from a bin turned upside down is ideal. Just remember to keep it up and away from cats. To help prevent the water freezing in cold weather float a ball in it.

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Visit the Sherkin Island Marine Station website www.sherkinmarine.ie