

## **What to do now in January.**

- 1) January is a quiet month, which gives us a chance to catch up with those jobs relating to the various structures that we use: for example, repairing old or making new fences, frames, cloches, greenhouses, sheds etc.
- 2) Continue to dig, manure and weed the planting areas if the weather allows in preparation for the new season.
- 3) Plant bare root fruit trees and bushes if the soil is not frozen.
- 4) If you like to make early sowings of hardy vegetables under protection then encourage good germination by warming up the soil in those areas beforehand. You can do this by covering it with black polythene for a few weeks or by banking up the soil into a gentle south facing slope – even a few degrees will have the effect of moving that area to the south of England!
- 5) Continue to sow cold season salad leaves under glass.
- 6) Force a crown of Rhubarb for an early crop of tender stalks. Place a large pot or upturned dustbin over the crown and surround the ground around it with some insulating material, (eg, compost, straw etc). You can pull the tender young stalks up until the middle of March. For the rest of the year allow it to grow naturally but take only a few mature stems to give it a chance to regain its strength.
- 7) Chit the earliest seed Potatoes ready for your first planting. Place the tubers in a frost free spot under cover out of direct sunlight. Place them in a seed tray with the “eyes” or buds uppermost. This is to start them into growth prior to planting.
- 8) Later in the month start sowing indoors your summer-heading varieties of Cauliflowers.