

Rod Hill's Gardening Tips

Corfe Mullen Gardening Club September / October 2016

Our summer raspberries have done us well and most of them will be turned into jam. Giving them a feed back in the summer has increased their growth by a third giving us some very strong canes for next year. Our autumn raspberries are still being picked.



Our hollyhocks are now beginning to go over, when we have had some really hot weather to dry out the seed pods it is my intention to collect the seed so that we can grow more Hollyhocks in a different part of the garden.

It is important to collect the seeds in envelopes and label rather than a poly bag as the seeds will sweat and rot. They could be stored in the fridge.

In the vegetable garden it is good to have some seed from the runner beans etc. and also the shallots. Why buy when you can produce your own.



If the perennial plants have been in for two or three years and have gone over they could be divided up by lifting and a spade cutting them in half. Or, left to early spring.



I remember back in the spring time we had one or two Azaleas that did not come into flower, now; there are one or two reasons why this could happen. 1stly, high in nitrogen where the compost is too rich and makes the shrub put on too much growth. 2ndly, it can happen if the shrub is pruned too late in the summer and all the new buds have been pruned off. 3rdly, Deer or rabbits could "prune them" without your permission. 4thly, Frost, an untimely frost can kill buds of a cold – sensitive azalea. I think my problem could be lack of light where we have a large Canadian Hibiscus and Viburnum mariesii blocking out the sunlight. I wonder if cutting out a branch or two may be sufficient without being too drastic

From Rodders, the retired gardener.