

Have you thought about:

Wrapping up warmly and having a (quick) barbeque? Really! Juicy sausages and hot chocolate all round on a lovely bright and frosty day.

The Winter Garden

It's winter. Already! Here are some suggestions for activities inside and out for growing, making, cooking and fun.

Have you sown:

If you have well drained soil and don't generally suffer from very severe frosts – or mice, try planting **broad beans** now for an early start next year. Good varieties include *Imperial Green Longpod* and *The Sutton*.



They say that **garlic** should be planted in mid-winter and harvested mid-summer. Allowing for a week here or there you should get your garlic in soon. Again, it is best overwintered in well-drained soil. If you don't have this, consider starting the cloves in modules or small pots in a cold frame or greenhouse. *Solent Wight* is a good variety for Scotland.

If you have a **polytunnel** there are masses you can continue to plant and harvest including salads such as mizuna and komatsuna. Or use it to start crops early to avoid the 'hungry gap' around May time.

And don't forget the **flowers**. Winter bedding really keep the garden going. Try viola, wallflower or cyclamen. And get **bulb planting** now for a fabulous show next spring. When I see a good stand of daffs I just want to roll in them out of pure joy. Have resisted so far!



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