# Expert Advice for Gardening in Wet Weather



## Essential Wet-Weather Gardening Tips

As gardens across the UK prepare for what could be one of the wettest summers on record in 2024, expert advice suggests several key tasks gardeners should focus on during the rainy season.

### 1. Manage Pests

Damp, warm environments are ideal for slugs and snails. Simon Toomer from Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and horticulturist Pim Dickson recommend using rainy periods to collect these pests. Utilizing slug traps, slug tape, and nematodes can also be effective.

### 2. Control Weeds

Rain softens soil, making weeds easier to remove. Simon Toomer advises mulching to prevent weed growth and promote soil health.

### 3. Maintain Water Butts

Pim Dickson emphasizes the importance of checking and utilizing water butts to save on water bills and provide better-quality water for plants.

### 4. Aerate the Lawn

Heavy rain can compact soil, affecting lawn health. Pim recommends aerating the lawn during breaks in the rain to ensure air and nutrients reach the roots.

### 5. Clean Tools

Rainy days are ideal for cleaning and sharpening garden tools. John Clifford from Gardenstone advises using this time to organize and maintain tools to prolong their lifespan.

### 6. Transplant Plants

Cloudy, rainy days reduce stress on plants being moved. Calum Maddock suggests using damp soil conditions for easier and less stressful transplanting.

### 7. Inspect Container Gardens

John Clifford recommends checking container plants for waterlogging issues and improving drainage to prevent plant rot.

### Conclusion

By following these expert-approved tips, gardeners can mitigate the challenges posed by wet weather, ensuring their gardens remain healthy and vibrant.