

TO DO's IN OCTOBER

- Dry, large bare areas heavily soiled with muck need muck sweeping/vacuuming before the ground becomes too wet. This will help prevent seeds in the muck reseeding in spring and keeps a check on your field's worm burden.
- Any late weeds can be topped/mown now, then sprayed with herbicide in spring 2011 which will get the bulk of them and is more cost effective. Topping now will prevent the weeds from spreading seed.
- Think about shutting paddocks up for winter and giving them a harrow to prepare them for spring 2011. If you have enough acreage, shut some up now and some once the wetter weather comes, but before they become churned up.
- Think about a sacrifice paddock or a bark turnout area which would be well worth the investment. Pick a sacrifice paddock that is close to the yard so that it is easy to get to. And make it as free-draining as possible – with sandy soil or good drainage – as it will get churned up over winter.



- Dig out any gateways and fill with hardcore or bark chippings to prevent muddy entrances, this is also a good idea around fixed water troughs.
- Areas that seem to hold a lot of water need to be remembered. Taking a photo and marking the area on it can help you remember where it is in spring when really bad areas may need draining once the ground is drier.

From BGS members Liz and Miles Greenwood of Equine Pasture Maintenance in West Yorkshire