

WOODLEY ALLOTMENTS NEWSLETTER

Gardening In Harmony with Nature

July 2021
Issue 88

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. Notices
2. July To-Do's
3. Plot Inspections – An Update
4. Other Items, Waiting List, Launchpad Update, Slug Survey, Road Repairs

“Security at the Front Gate”
Please ensure that you close and lock the gate when you enter or leave the site.

Our Website can be found [here](#)

Covid-19 – How it still affects us!

Editor: Mike McNamara – E14

Covid-19 (Coronavirus)

The current Lockdown restrictions continue to be eased. However, there is still a need to be aware of all the current restrictions/rules concerning the current health crisis and the changes as they occur over the coming weeks.

We still advise all plot holders to protect their hands when touching the gate/padlock when entering/leaving the site – please use the bin by the gate to dispose of any used gloves/masks.

Plot holders must **NOT** wash their hands (or any of their tools) in the water tanks around the site. Please use your own container/bucket for this. The latest updated (July) advice can be found at...

[National Allotment Society - Covid 19 Emergency Measures](#)

[UK.GOV - Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): what you need to do](#)

Notices

Bonfires – No longer allowed onsite until 1st October 2021.

AGM Update – Due to the UK.Gov change about the ending of Covid restrictions the AGM will now be held after the Summer Holidays break, exact date to be announced later.

Speeding – Letters are still being sent out to serial offenders still driving at excessive speed on the site.

Please Reduce Your Speed On Site.

July – Some To Do's

July is typically a dry month so make sure you keep up with watering, particularly in Poly Tunnels. Also keep up with harvesting as the allotment moves into full production.

With that in mind, here are some other jobs to be getting on with.

- Check and if ready, start harvesting early potatoes & continue to earth up others, keep an eye out for blight
- If they are are ready, pick some early tomatoes
- Continue to pick Rhubarb till the end of the month
- It's a good time to plant out the main crop of carrots
- Keep sowing successions such as radishes, beetroot, lettuce and runner beans
- Sow seeds for overwintering Brassica such as spring cabbage, kales & hardy onions
- Keep that hoe working as the warming weather will encourage more weeds; try to keep on top of them.
- More tips at [Allotments & Gardens](#), [Gardeners World](#) & the [NSALG](#).

“What's to grow next season? Now is the time to start planning your next sowings – use our guide on page three”



Plot Inspections – An Update

For those not on Facebook we thought that it right to publish this response (Post) to comments made on Facebook about Inspections.

Plot Inspections - Why do we have them?

Short answer; to ensure that tenants comply with the Tenancy Agreement that everyone has signed when they took on the allotment from Woodley Town Council (WTC).

It states - The Tenant shall have at least 50% of the allotment under cultivation of crops and 70% worked after 12 months....

I think everyone would agree that this does not suddenly happen 'one day' before the 12 months are up! It takes time to bring an unused plot back into production - unless you are lucky enough to take over a plot that is already growing 'stuff' (I wish!).

That said, it would seem logical that any tenant signing up for an allotment would look to work a part of the plot from the very beginning to show that progress has either started or is progressing.

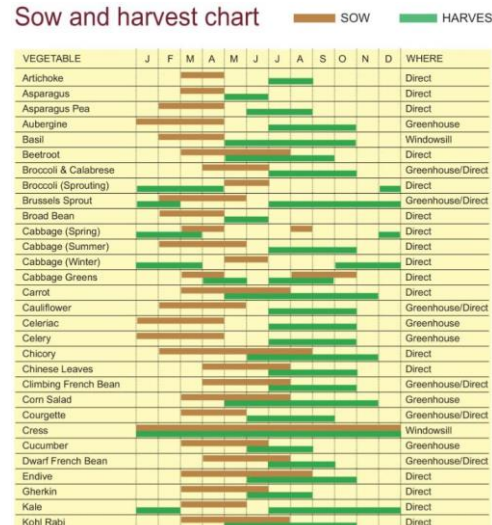
Clearly seasons, weather, time and physical ability dictate what progress might be made.

All plot inspections take these factors into account when they are carried out. For example, not a lot grows in the winter, so the inspection would expect to find many of the plots covered and shut down that is perfectly acceptable. Likewise come the spring season, an inspection would expect to see some activity starting, may be some lifting of the covers, even some early planting; by summer an inspection would look to see an increase in activity with more planting. The same goes for an Autumn Inspection, looking for progress.

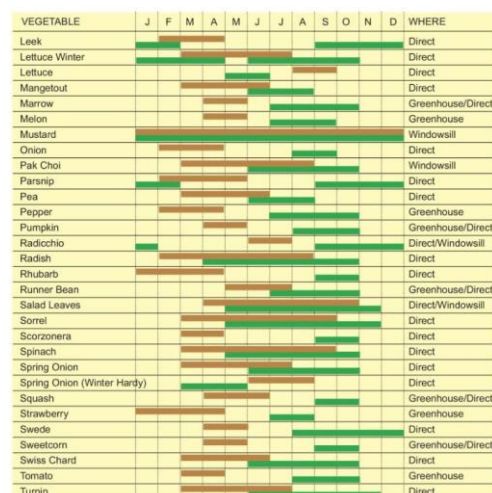
Plot inspections are not a 'science', it's an objective view of what is happening on a plot and there will a great deal of variation for many reasons. For example, this last eighteen or so months have been a challenge for many people. The committee was approached by a number of tenants who had to 'self-isolate' due to Covid; some had other reasons such as being essential workers with no spare time, a few for other reasons.

... to read the rest of the post please go to our [News & Information Blog](#).

Sow and harvest chart



A handy guide for Sowing & Harvesting



Click on these for larger version

“Site Security is important for all of us.

Please lock the gate when you enter or leave the site.

Also don't leave high-value items in your plot shed”

Other Items

Allotment Waiting List – The waiting list is now standing at **77**, with **‘No’** available plots.

Plot Inspections – Plot inspections have resumed and any unworked plots will be identified & reallocated to the waiting list.

The last inspection carried out on the 13th June has resulted in 29 letters being issue by Woodley Town Council. The next inspections will be towards the end of July. The committee welcomes any plot holder to help with these inspections.

The committee would like to point out that if you are struggling to work/maintain your plot due to its size and it is proving too much for you; then do please contact the committee on the usual email below and we can discuss various options including splitting larger plots in two and releasing the split portion onto the waiting list.

Allotments helped these People

During the coronavirus pandemic, waiting lists for an allotment have swelled, ours is now 77!

The BBC visited one site to find out what these small patches of land mean to those who cultivate them.

Hidden at the end of an easily-missed grass and gravel track, you might never know the Lexden allotments in Colchester existed.

Take the turning, however, and a vast oasis of lovingly tended soil awaits.

There are more than 100 plots here and the diversity of the allotmenters reflects the richness and variety of the vegetables, fruits and flowers they grow.

Read the full story [here](#).

Launchpad Update?

We will be making our first deliveries to food banks this month and although there are no corporate volunteers planned for July, tenant volunteers continue to maintain the plots to assist with the project.

However, if ‘you’ can help by donating some of your time – for example on Monday’s 10am till 1pm with a ‘free’ Brunch provided and particularly when the dry, hot weather comes along and the watering starts, please let us know via the normal contact email below.

Also, if you can donate any plants you don’t need such as French and Runner Beans, please leave these on the table outside the Launchpad polytunnel. Many thanks.

Please also let us know if you intend to be away from your plot for an extended time.

If there are any plot issues at all, direct contact with us is the best way to get a resolution.

Slug Survey



We all hate them for what they do to our hard work on the plots. However, the RHS is carrying out a survey on them.

You can find more info [here](#).

Road Repairs

Diary date; our yearly effort to keep the roads in good condition is planned for the month of September (exact date to be confirmed). All volunteers welcome & don’t forget the free BBQ at the end of the work.



Website Plant Sales – Many people have excess seedlings; you can always share them around other allotment holders. However, you can also donate them to our online shop via an email to donateplants@woodley-allotments.org.uk. Money raised by the sales will go towards allotment site projects.

Our Contact Details

If you have any suggestions for items that you would like to see covered in further editions of this newsletter, please do contact us at:

readingrdallotments@hotmail.co.uk