

WOODLEY ALLOTMENTS TENANTS ASSOCIATION

at Reading Road

Gardening In Harmony with Nature

Newsletter - JULY 2022
Issue 100

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

Editor – Mike McNamara – E14

Our Website can be found [here](#)

Notices

Memorial for Scott Golding

The Committee is looking for feedback from tenants about a suitable memorial to celebrate the memory of Scott Golding who was Chair of the Association Committee for over 10 years and a plot holder for over 40 years.

Please email your suggestions to the Committee at the address shown at the end of this newsletter.

Noticeboard Area

As you will see area around the Notice Board has now been cleared and notices have been posted asking tenants not to leave any more items next to the Notice Board.

The Committee is currently working on how tenants can still donate/recycle useful items without the Notice Board area becoming littered with unwanted items. We expect to publish details of this process shortly.

In the meantime, if you notice anyone leaving items next to the Notice Board please let a member of the Committee know.

Fruit trees and bushes

The season for planting new fruit trees and bushes is soon to be upon us.

If you don't want to miss out on some very good bargains, please get your orders in as soon as possible to avoid missing that important planting period.

You can see full details and download an order form from the [Special Bulletin](#) section of our website.

July – Some To Do's

July is typically one of the hottest & driest months, so a lot of time can be spent watering. Watering in early morning or late evening reduces evaporation from the soil and encourages greater uptake by plants. Here are some other jobs that you can also tackle this month:

- You should be harvesting first early potatoes and perhaps some second earlies. They don't store well unlike the main crop, so enjoy them now.
- You can still sow summer cropping produce direct in the ground e.g. chicory, Chinese cabbage, kohlrabi, lettuce and many others
- Runner and climbing beans should be ready to harvest this month
- Now is the time to sow vegetables to harvest during the winter months, including kale, winter cabbage, red cabbage, overwintering spring cabbage and spinach.
- Keep an eye out for [potato blight](#). A wet and humid end to July may bring this on quickly.
- Keep an eye out for other pests such as aphids, cabbage white butterfly caterpillars, white fly, pea moth and the dreaded carrot root fly. Use organic methods where possible to get rid of them.
- Keep hoeing to stay on top of those pesky weeds.
- Many 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”

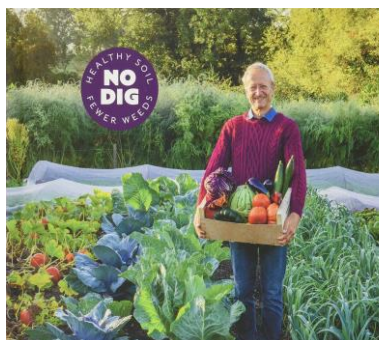


To Dig or No-Dig, that is the question?

It's a subject that is widely discussed and a number of our tenants follow this practice as their preferred method of allotment cultivation.

For the unfamiliar, a No-dig method allows nature to carry out cultivation operations. Organic matter such as well rotted manure, compost, leaf mold, spent mushroom compost, old straw, etc., is added directly to the soil surface as a mulch at least 5-15 cm (2–6 in) deep, which is then incorporated into the soil by the actions of worms, insects and microbes. Worms and other soil life also assist in building up the soil's structure; their tunnels providing aeration and drainage, and their excretions bind together soil crumbs. This natural biosphere maintains healthy conditions in the upper soil horizons where annual plant roots thrive.

No-dig systems are said to be freer of pests and disease, possibly due to a more balanced soil population being allowed to build up in this undisturbed environment, and by encouraging the build-up of beneficial rather than harmful soil fungi. Moisture is also retained more efficiently under mulch than on the surface of bare earth, allowing slower percolation of water and less leaching of nutrients.



No-dig gardener Charles Dowding is a big advocate of this method and has been featured on many gardening programs such as [Gardeners World](#).

Charles Dowding has an extensive [website](#) dedicated to No-Dig and also has his own newsletter which you can sign up to.

This newsletter would be interested to hear from any of our tenants using the No-Dig method who would be willing to tell us about their success and of course what they would do differently.

You can use the email at the end of this newsletter to contact us.

Other online resources about No Dig can be found at:

- [The Advantages of No-Dig Gardening](#)
- [The No-Dig Method](#)
- [Midsummer no dig allotment and garden](#)

The editor is grateful to Roy & Ursula of K17 for suggesting this article.

Sow and harvest chart

VEGETABLE	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	WHERE
Artichoke													Direct
Asparagus													Direct
Asparagus Pea													Direct
Aubergine													Greenhouse
Basil													Windowsill
Beetroot													Direct
Broccoli & Calabrese													Greenhouse/Direct
Broccoli (Sprouting)													Direct
Brussels Sprout													Greenhouse/Direct
Broad Bean													Direct
Cabbage (Spring)													Direct
Cabbage (Summer)													Direct
Cabbage (Winter)													Direct
Cabbage Greens													Direct
Carrot													Direct
Cauliflower													Greenhouse/Direct
Celeriac													Greenhouse
Celery													Greenhouse
Chicory													Direct
Chinese Leaves													Direct
Climbing French Bean													Greenhouse/Direct
Corn Salad													Greenhouse
Courgette													Greenhouse/Direct
Cress													Windowsill
Cucumber													Greenhouse/Direct
Dwarf French Bean													Greenhouse/Direct
Endive													Direct
Gherkin													Direct
Kale													Direct
Kohlrabi													Direct

A handy guide for Sowing & Harvesting

VEGETABLE	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	WHERE
Leek													Direct
Lettuce Winter													Direct
Lettuce													Direct
Mangetout													Direct
Marrow													Greenhouse/Direct
Melon													Greenhouse
Mustard													Windowsill
Onion													Direct
Pak Choi													Windowsill
Parsnip													Direct
Pea													Direct
Pepper													Greenhouse
Pumpkin													Greenhouse/Direct
Radish													Direct/Windowsill
Rhubarb													Direct
Runner Bean													Greenhouse/Direct
Salad Leaves													Direct/Windowsill
Sorrel													Direct
Scorzonera													Direct
Spinach													Direct
Spring Onion													Direct
Spring Onion (Winter Hardy)													Direct
Squash													Greenhouse/Direct
Strawberry													Greenhouse
Swede													Direct
Sweetcorn													Greenhouse/Direct
Swiss Chard													Direct
Tomato													Greenhouse
Turnip													Direct

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 continuing to reduce and is currently at **68**, with just **11** vacant plots of varying sizes waiting to be allocated. More viewings are scheduled for July. The Committee continues to look at various ways of increasing the number of plots available either by splitting up larger plots that maybe too much work for existing tenants as well as investigating bringing unused areas of the site back into production.

Away from your plot for an extended period? – Please let us know if you intend to be away from your plot for an extended time for particular circumstances including illness, extended holidays etc. so we can keep an eye on it for you and exempt it from any plot inspections.

Plot Inspections – These have been carried out in June by the Committee & relevant tenants have been informed using a new report form. Repeat inspections to follow in July/August.

Covid-19 Update

Covid continues to affect our lives in one way or another despite the recent removal of government restrictions. The Committee would still ask all plot holders to continue to act responsibly when on the allotment site.

We still advise all plot holders to protect their hands when touching the gate/padlock when entering/ leaving the site.

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 (16th June 2022) advice can be found at...

- [UK.GOV – Coronavirus update latest details](https://www.uk.gov/government/coronavirus/covid-19/covid-19-information-for-the-uk)
- [National Allotment Society - Covid 19 Precautions](https://www.nationalallotmentsociety.org.uk/covid-19-precautions)

Miscellaneous Items

Launchpad – If you have surplus harvested goods, please consider donating them to Launchpad for Readifood Banks. Please leave any donation on the Launchpad plot table as we deliver every Monday around 11:30am.

Pond – The Committee advises that the pond near the site entrance is still very much on their to-do list/wish list. The Committee is currently awaiting feedback from WTC with regards to the blockages in the site corner drain near to plots L12/L18. We will post any updates as soon as possible.

Skips – These proved a success again, however it was disappointing to see some tenants breaking the security tags off the skips to access them when they were locked.

Committee Contacts

If you have any questions about any issues on our allotment site, please feel free to contact any of the Committee on their plots or use the email address at the end of this newsletter.

Vice-Chair - Sarah Lane (H28)

Treasurer - Kerri Evans (C29a)

Secretary - Gill Germain (C23)

John Anderson (H27)

Teresa Buley - (E18)

Tony Carter - (D21)

Barry Jackson - (G28)

Mike McNamara (E14)



Bonfires

Please remember that you cannot now have any further Bonfires on your allotment until the 1st October 2022.

This is a Woodley Town Council regulation and part of the 2022 Tenancy Agreement that we have all signed.

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:

readingroadplots@woodley-allotments.org.uk