

WOODLEY ALLOTMENTS TENANTS ASSOCIATION

at Reading Road

Gardening In Harmony with Nature

Newsletter - AUGUST
2022
Issue 101

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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

Weather Watch / Water Usage

By the time that you receive this newsletter, it is possible that the UK will officially be in a drought situation.

The committee asks all tenants to be cautious with their water usage and to only use this for watering the plants that need it on their individual plots.

We recently received information that one tenant has been using water from a water tank to wash their car! This must stop immediately! Any future occurrences will be reported to WTC.

We have also had a report of an unattended fire-pit still alight on one plot - on the hottest day in July in fact! Luckily, it did not cause any issues, however this has been reported to WTC who may act on this information.

During this period of extreme weather, common-sense must prevail and we ask all tenants to refrain having any further lit fire-pits or BBQ's onsite until we get a break in the weather and the ground becomes less dry. It only takes one spark to start a small fire that as we have seen in the media can turn into a much bigger event!

If you do see any unattended sources of smoke on the site, please let us know as soon as possible via the Facebook group page.

In Memory

We are very sad to announce that Pam Bennett who was the first person to take on one of our new Starter Beds on Row G in March, passed away suddenly two weeks ago. The Committee has sent condolences to her family on behalf of all tenants.

August – Some To Do's

August is typically one of the busiest months, with lots of harvesting to do. There is still watering to be carried out wisely and preferably early morning or late evening. If you're off on holiday, ask a neighbour to help while your away. In the meantime, here are some other jobs for this month

- Runner and climbing beans will be in full production, Pick often to encourage further flowering and more beans.
- Plenty still to be sowing in August, such as spring cabbage, Chinese cabbage, spring onions and some late spinach
- Plant out any savoy cabbages and cauliflowers to grow on.
- Continue to keep an eye out for summer pests including 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 an eye out for blossom end rot on tomatoes, typically caused by irregular watering
- The end of August is time to summer prune your fruit trees – see our item on the next page. Don't forget that they also need a good watering to swell the fruit
- 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”



Summer Fruit Tree Pruning

We've pulled together some interesting items (*see the links as well*) to help understand what's behind this need.

Some things to think about in deciding whether to prune fruit trees in the summer are:

- disease — pruning in warm weather helps the cuts to heal quickly and reduce the introduction or spread of disease,
- fruit quality — reducing leaf canopy with summer pruning can reduce the size and sugar content of the fruit,
- fruit colour — less leaves allows better sun penetration to the tree and higher coloured fruit,
- sunburn — a bushy leaf canopy can provide protection to vulnerable fruit,
- root health — summer pruning can reduce root growth in a tree,
- ease of pruning — it's much easier to see what you're doing in winter when there are no leaves on the tree.

So, for example, pruning a fruit tree in summer while it still has fruit can have a very different outcome to pruning it after harvest.

- list is courtesy of [Grow Great Fruit](#)

Another viewpoint

Summer pruning has always been carried out on trained apples and pears—those in the form of cordons or espaliers and all the other clever shapes that can be created from their branches.

Summer pruning is less common on untrained trees, but as garden apples and pears are now almost always grown on dwarfing stock (tall, standard trees are not pruned in summer), it's not only possible, but they'll be much easier to control, and you'll gain a deeper understanding of how your trees work.

- from [The Benefits of Pruning Apple and Pear Trees in Summer](#) - Grow Veg

Additional helpful links (all have been checked)

RHS - [Apples and pears: summer pruning](#)

Gardeners World - [Pruning fruit trees in summer](#)

Woodland Trust - [When to prune apple and other fruit trees](#)

Orchard People - [When to prune fruit trees](#)

Garden Ninja - [How to prune a fruit tree in summer \(with video\)](#)

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													Direct
Chicory													Direct
Chinese Leaves													Direct
Climbing French Bean													Greenhouse/Direct
Corn Salad													Greenhouse
Courgette													Greenhouse/Direct
Cress													Windowsill
Cucumber													Greenhouse/Direct
Dwarf French Bean													Direct
Endive													Direct
Gherkin													Direct
Kale													Direct
Kohi Rabi													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
Mangelout													Direct
Marrow													Greenhouse/Direct
Melon													Greenhouse
Mustard													Windowsill
Onion													Direct
Pak Choi													Windowsill
Parsnip													Direct
Pea													Direct
Pepper													Greenhouse
Pumpkin													Greenhouse/Direct
Radicchio													Direct/Windowsill
Radish													Direct
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 continues to reduce and is currently at **62**, with just **11** vacant plots of varying sizes waiting to be allocated during August. The Committee has noticed a trend towards new tenants taking on smaller plots. To meet this trend the Committee will look at splitting up larger plots as well as continuing to investigate 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 any circumstance including illness, extended holidays etc. so we can keep an eye on it for you and exempt it from any plot inspections.

Plot Inspections – Initial inspections were made in June by the Committee & relevant tenants have been informed using a new report form. Repeat inspections will follow in August. Those plots showing inadequate improvement can expect to be contacted by WTC. We will also be continuing to monitor progress on all other plots.

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.gov.uk/coronavirus)
- [National Allotment Society - Covid 19 Precautions](https://www.nationalallotmentsociety.org.uk/covid-19-precautions)

Miscellaneous Items

Picking Fruit – Another reminder not to help yourself to fruit on any plot other than your own without permission. Brambles in the wild areas of the site are okay to pick from, proving you do not have to cross anyone else's plot to reach them. We will be issuing further guidelines about this subject in a Special Bulletin.

Vehicle Tyres – This is another reminder that Tenants that still have them should be working towards removing all vehicle tyres from their plots as soon as possible. When you take them to the local recycling centre, please remember that Re3 only allow four tyres to be disposed of per visit.

Paths between Plots – It is part of the Tenancy agreement that everyone signs that a Tenant must always keep these paths clear of any hazard/rubbish at all times.

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