

# WOODLEY ALLOTMENTS TENANTS ASSOCIATION

## at Reading Road

### Gardening In Harmony with Nature

Newsletter -  
SEPTEMBER 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

As we alluded to in last month's Newsletter, our area has now been classified as being in a drought area, with various restrictions introduced for domestic water users.

The allotment site is still being served by the onsite water tanks, although we urge all plot holders to continue to be cautious with water usage on site and only water plants that really need it. Luckily, we have had some rain in the past few days and as we are coming to the end of the main growing season there will be less need for watering of plants.

### Memorial Garden scheme agreed

Following discussions between various parties', agreement has been reached to turn Plot F30 plot into the Woodley Allotments Tenants Association Memorial Garden.

With various planting and seating, the Committee hopes that this plot can become an area of quiet reflection where people can remember past allotment tenants, including Scott Golding, David Stares and Peter McKay who have all contributed to the success of the allotment site over the years.

The Committee will be putting forward some suggestions for the plot shortly, although we would really like all tenants to think about what they would like to see in this Memorial Garden and to let the Committee know using the standard email at the end of this newsletter.

### Manure, wood chip, compost

Keep an eye out for a Special Bulletin for a list of proven suppliers of the above.



## September – Some To Do's

Whilst September is typically the beginning of the end of the growing season for many of the summer crops, there is still a lot to harvest and some watering to do. In the meantime, here are some other jobs for this month:

- Direct sow winter [lettuce seeds](#) directly into prepared soil. '[Winter Density](#)' is especially tolerant to cold and sow a crop of [speedy winter leaves](#) outdoors for fresh salad in as little as three weeks.
- Good time to plant out your overwintering autumn onion sets throughout September. Good varieties to survive the winter include the red 'Electric' and the yellow coloured 'Shakespeare' or 'Senshyu Yellow'.
- We have been very lucky to have avoided potato/tomato blight this year, so continue to keep picking those lovely tomatoes.
- Broad bean seeds can now be planted; these seedlings will overwinter and be ready early spring next year.
- Overwinter cabbages, broccoli can be planted out and will be ready throughout the colder months.
- Keep hoeing to stay on top of any of any pesky weeds that may appear.
- Many more tips at [Allotments & Gardens](#), [Gardeners World](#) & the [NSALG](#).

**"What to grow next season? Now is the time to start planning your next sowings – use our guide on page three"**



## Peat based compost ban announced

Well, we knew it was coming! The sale of peat-based compost for use on England's private gardens and allotments is to be outlawed within 18 months. Here's a link to the full [Guardian newspaper story](#) that broke the news. So, what next and what can we do over the next 18 months to prepare for the coming ban?

The ban will affect all aspects of our growing season, so we have put together initial information from various links around the web to help in making this transition as painless as possible. If you have any suggestions/ideas about this subject, please let us know as they may be useful for all tenants and could feature in future newsletter articles.

**Non-peat seed sowing alternatives.** Trying to replicate the benefits of peat-based composts is not an easy or cheap option.

- [Peat-free growing media](#) – In depth review by the RHS about all aspects of being Peat free
- [11 of the best peat free composts](#) – A reviews of these from the Gardeners World website

**How to get the plot in better shape without adding peat-based compost.**

We have mentioned this in past editions of the Newsletter, but one of the best ways is to make your own compost on site.

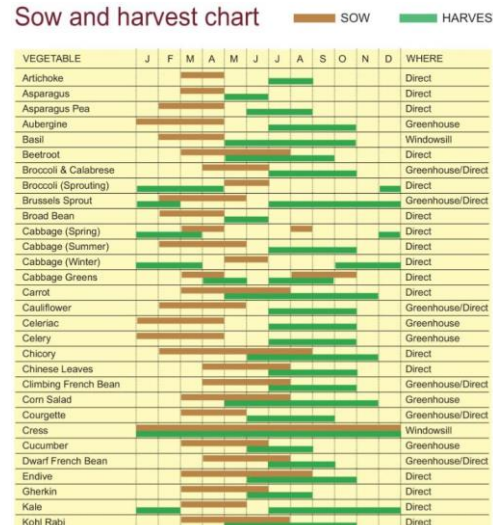
- [How do I make my compost?](#) – Answers from Garden Organic
- [How to make a compost heap: 10 top tips](#) – From the Eden Project
- [Composting](#) – All you need to know from the RHS
- [How to make compost](#) – All aspect discussed in this Gardeners World article

### Green manure crops

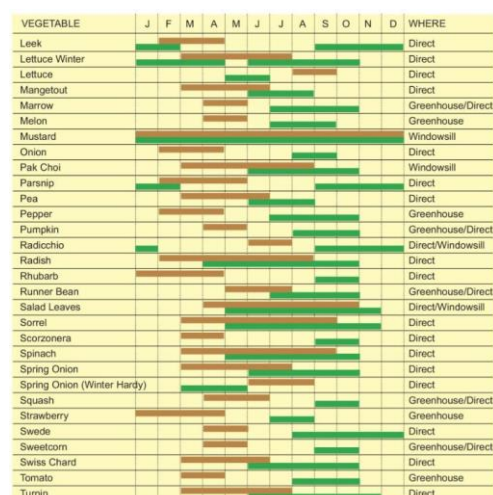
These are becoming more popular as a way of adding valuable nutrients to the soil and improve soil structure and come in a wide variety of types that can meet most soil variants.

- [How do I grow green manures and when?](#) – From Garden Organic
- [The Beginners Guide To Sowing & Growing Green Manure](#) –From Sow Seeds
- [Green Manures – the Good, the Bad and the Ugly](#) – From GrowVeg

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 continues to reduce and is currently at **60**, with just **six** vacant plots of varying sizes waiting to be allocated during September. The Committee has noticed a trend towards new tenants taking on smaller plots.

**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. so, we can keep an eye on it for you and exempt it from any plot inspections.

**Plot inspections** – The Summer round of plot inspections has now been completed and Plot Inspection Reports have been delivered by email or pinned to your plot if you have not completed our “Opt-In” form.

**Covid-19 Update** - Covid continues to affect our lives in one way or another. The Committee would still ask all plot holders to continue to act responsibly when on the allotment site. The editor is currently isolating due to Covid, so it's still around!!

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 (16<sup>th</sup> June 2022) advice can be found at...

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

**Re3grow compost** – Great teamwork from the committee in securing free bags of compost from our successful bid to RE3Grow. A big thank you to RE3Grow.

Several tenants who expressed interest are now putting to good use their free compost, along with our charities on site.

We have some bags left and these will go with the starter/mini plots for new tenants that sign up.

Here are some pictures of tenants and charities receiving their bags of compost.



C30



G26a



Hope & Vision



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## 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 have any bonfires on your allotment until the 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:readingroadplots@woodley-allotments.org.uk)