

THE ALLOTMENT

HAMPTON COURT WAY ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

BLIGHT ON THE LANDSCAPE!

Blight begins to show around June, spread on the wind in humid conditions. Dark brown blotches appear on leaves towards the leaf tips and edges. White fungal spores develop around these spots on the undersides of the leaves and further lesions develop on the stems. Rapidly leaves and stems blacken and rot.

BLIGHT CONTROL

Only use disease-free seed potatoes from a known supplier.

Choose blight resistant varieties.

Potatoes - eg. any Hungarian Sampo, Cara, Orla, Lady Balfour, Melody

Tomatoes - eg. Iron Lady, Lemon Drop, Mountain Majic, Plum Regal

Choose an open planting site with good airflow and sufficient space between plants, allowing foliage to dry quickly after rain.

Crop rotation helps prevent a build up of disease and avoids infected plants springing up from missed tubers left in over winter.

Spray a protective fungicide (Bordeaux Mixture) before signs of blight appear. Begin spraying from June, particularly when periods of wet weather are forecast and spray a few weeks later to protect new growth.

When plants become infected they should be removed and destroyed (not added to the compost heap).

If potato crops have developed tubers these can be saved by cutting away

foliage and stems. Leave crop in the soil undisturbed for 2/3 weeks to kill off lingering spores so they don't infect the crop when lifted.

Remove plants that spring up the following season as soon as possible.

IF YOUR CROPS START TO LOOK LIKE THESE, PLEASE REMOVE AND DESTROY IMMEDIATELY AS IT MAY INFECT THE WHOLE SITE. THANK YOU



THE SUMMER BBQ



**Saturday July 5th
5.00pm onwards**

£3 per person. Guests Welcome • SALADS & DESERTS PROVIDED.

Please bring a chair, cutlery, crockery, glasses, any meat you want (we will happily cook it for you) and refreshments.

Julie Smith will coordinate any food contributions for the table. **TO BOOK CONTACT:** smirkysmith1@hotmail.com

PLEASE EMAIL TO BOOK

JUNE

June is the last month for sowing many crops as we approach midsummer.

SOWING & PLANTING

DIRECT SOWING: *French and Runner Beans, Maincrop Peas, Beetroot, Carrots, Turnips, Swedes, Cauliflowers, Chicory, Endive, Kohlrabi, Sweetcorn, Squash, Courgette and Marrows*

Method in dry weather. Make your drill and water it well prior to sowing, then water with a fine rose after to settle the seeds in.

SUCCESSIONAL SOWING: *Beetroot, French Beans, early Carrots, Kohlrabi, Early Peas, Lettuce, Rocket, Turnips, Endive, Radish, Spring Onions*

PLANTING OUT: *Brassicca from pots (Broccoli, Calabrese, Brussels Sprouts, Summer Cabbage), Runner and dwarf Beans.*

Outdoor tomatoes (CAUTION: Don't plant them straight from the greenhouse or they'll be checked. Use a cold frame to condition them), *Leeks*

CULTIVATE, PESTS & PROBLEMS

Caterpillar Eggs - Find and kill them. SLUGS and SNAILS. We have them by the truck load, Use pellets, traps, biological controls or just pick them off, It doesn't matter how.

Check the undersides of brassica leaves for yellow or white eggs of BUTTERFLIES. They can be squashed, wiped or washed off easily.

FRUIT

If the weather is dry and bright WATER WELL when the soil is dry (a few inches below the surface) - about 10 litres per square metre. This should last about a week of hot, dry weather.

Apples and currants need lots of water so give them a good soaking too. In June apples drop excess fruit, after which it's good to thin-out overcrowded branches.

Tie in blackberry canes as they grow. Check netting and fruit cages for gaps, Mulch or feed finished rhubarb to enable them to build strength for next year.

E.M.G.S. REMINDER

Membership of HCWAA carries with it associate membership of The Esher Molesey Garden Society (EMGS). EMGS is an organisation that tries to meet the needs of gardeners in its area. It runs a series of lectures on the first Monday evening of most months. (Cont. over)

NOISY MACHINERY: *Neighbours have complained about constant noise at weekends. We know it is difficult but we need them on-side. Lets do our best. Thank you!*

JULY

Preventing moisture loss by mulching encourages slugs. **So, those that know, hoe.** As an alternative, hoeing kills the weeds and breaks up the top of the soil, stopping water from being drawn to the surface and evaporating. Clever!!!

SOWING & PLANTING

DIRECT SOWING: *Spring Cabbage, Carrots, Chicory, Chinese Cabbage, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Peas, French Beans, Beetroot, Radishes.*

If it is really hot you could water young seedlings early morning and late evening to keep them going.

PLANTING OUT: *Leeks, Brassicas from pots can still go out.*

CULTIVATE, PESTS & PROBLEMS

The same as for June applies to watering, and pests

Check brassicas for caterpillars that may have hatched.

FEED Potatoes for a healthy crop.

WEEDS - Hoe.

BLACKFLY CONTROL - Plant nasturtiums which attract blackfly. You can then pull out the nasturtiums and their blackfly.

ONIONS - Keep well weeded to allow air to circulate and feed. Don't over water.

FRUIT

Finish thinning Apples, Pears, Plums etc. if needed. It's the right time for summer pruning. Keep the base of trees weed and grass free, mulch to keep in moisture and add fertility with garden compost. Pick soft fruits. Use strawberry Runners to grow new plants and remove unwanted Runners so the plants retain strength.

AUGUST

August hopefully brings us the best of the summer weather and it can be hard to keep on top of the vegetable plot

SOWING & PLANTING

DIRECT SOWING: *Spring Cabbage and Chinese Cabbage, Hardy Lettuce, Spring Onions (White Lisbon), Late Spinach, Kohlrabi, Turnips.*

PLANTING OUT; *Savoy Cabbage, Cauliflower, Kale.*

CULTIVATE, PESTS & PROBLEMS

Pinch out Runner Bean tips. Pick all Runner, climbing and Dwarf Beans regularly, except for the Haricot varieties (where we want the bean not the pod).

Tomato plants: cut off the growing tip to encourage the fruit. Keep tomato side shoots in check. Ensure they are watered regularly, drying out prevents the plant from taking up sufficient calcium and the deficit causes blossom end rot.

Control Aphids and Blackfly - spraying a soft soap solution will not harm plants and reduces by stopping the pests breathing.

FRUIT

Last chance for summer pruning.

Keep tree bases weed and grass free, mulch for moisture and nutrition with compost.

Protect autumn raspberries with netting before the fruits arrive.

SEPTEMBER

Boo Hoo. It's the end of summer! Hurray! We will have lots of lovely veg.

SOWING & PLANTING

DIRECT SOWING: *Spring Onions (ready for spring), Lettuce (Arctic King- ready in spring), Autumn Onion Sets, Spring Cabbages (to slowly develop for next year).*

CULTIVATE, PESTS & PROBLEMS

Feed tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers but it's not worthwhile feeding other plants as they are nearly finished. Keep the side shoots in check on the tomatoes.

Continue hoeing

Keep an eye on your brassicas for butterfly eggs and caterpillars

COMPOSTING

September and October are the months to work on the compost heap.

FRUIT

Tidy up the summer fruiting raspberries. Cut off the canes that have fruited and tie in the new shoots that will bear next year's fruit.

Summer strawberries can be attended to now. Cut off foliage about 1" from the ground, clearing and weeding as you go. Runners can be planted up to replace 3 year old plants that are best replaced now.

HARVEST TIME

Maincrop potatoes may be ready now. See blight article, *Runner and French Beans* will continue until first frost, *Peas*. Compost the foliage of Peas and Beans but leave the roots in the ground as the nodules on them contain nitrogen.

OTHER CROPS TO HARVEST:

Beetroot, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflowers, Courgettes, Globe Artichokes, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Leeks, Marrows, Onions, Pumpkins, Radishes, Spring Onions, Spinach, Sweetcorn, Turnips. THE END!

EVEN THE SHEDS ARE GROWING

As with the weeds, we need to keep on top of the size of sheds. 6' x 4' only. There have been complaints made.

E.M.G.S. REMINDER

Lectures are held at St Nicholas Church Hall in Thames Ditton. Also a newsletter is issued three times a year that contains details of its activities. EMGS runs a trading depot on the Beauchamp Road Allotment Site and an annual flower show (also at St Nicholas Church Hall). As an associate member you will receive the newsletters, and can use the trading depot (run by volunteers, the prices are about 75% of garden centre prices), you can enter vegetables etc. in the flower show and join in most of its other activities. The flower show this year is on 16th August and will include a competition between various allotment sites affiliated to EMGS. Our site plans to compete. Our entry is being co-ordinated by Jean Billett (plot 25) and Madeleine Hern (Plot 44b). **For more information contact Tom Appleton tel. 020 8398 1013.**

Who's Who

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