

# THE ALLOTMENT

HAMPTON COURT WAY ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

## SUMMER SITE SUMMARY FROM JILL, SITE MANAGER

**Dear All,**

**Following a large number of complaints I have been asked to remind everyone who drives to the site, that there is a speed limit of 5 mph on the whole site. This includes the access road from Broadfields.**

**Please remember this road is also used by pedestrians,**

**many of whom are unaccompanied children or parents pushing prams. There have been several serious near misses recently particular on the blind bend near our gates.**

**The speed limit is there for a good reason.**

**SLOW DOWN BEFORE YOU KILL SOMEBODY!**

I must also remind people that the use of **cement and concrete is not permitted on site**; this includes postcrete and similar products. Paving stones used under sheds or on pathways may only be set in dry sand. It is prohibited under the terms of our Lease to create any permanent structure, base or building without the written consent of the Council .

**If you need advice please ask me .**

**During the recent site inspection I noticed that there are several raspberry plants showing signs of distress.**



**The most likely cause is a deficiency in manganese or magnesium. The symptoms are virtually the same; yellowing between the leaf veins.**

**However, if there is also browning of leaf edges this is a manganese deficiency and reddish brown tints is magnesium.**

A **magnesium** deficiency on our site would most likely be the over-use of high potassium fertilisers such as tomato feed. In the short term apply a foliar feed of Epsom salts (magnesium sulphate) every couple of weeks in the summer, spray in dull weather to avoid leaf scorch. As a long term solution apply Epsom salts around the roots at 30g per sq m (1oz per sq yd).

A **manganese** deficiency can be due to the soil being too alkaline. Apply a dressing of sequestered iron

to the soil around the plant roots. Mulching with a layer of pine wood chips or leaf mould will also help. If growing raspberries in pots you would be wise to use ericaceous compost. For acid loving plants rain water is preferable to tap water.

Raspberries do best in moisture-retentive slightly acidic well-drained soils so our clay site is probably a bit of a challenge! Ideally to keep them happy you should apply a slow release general fertiliser, such as blood fish and bone, in early March then mulch with well-rotted organic matter to improve moisture retention. If you find that growth is weak, apply sulphate of ammonia or dried poultry manure pellets.

**Jill**

## THE ANNUAL BBQ



**Saturday July 9th  
5.30pm onwards**

**£3 per person. Guests Welcome • SALAD, BREAD + DESSERT PROVIDED.**

**PHONE OR EMAIL TO BOOK**

**Please bring a chair, cutlery, crockery, glasses, food for the grill (we will happily cook it for you) and refreshments.**  
Marie Mullard will be co-ordinating food contributions - email [mariemullard@gmail.com](mailto:mariemullard@gmail.com) or tel: 020 8398 5022

## THANK YOU TO ROGER AND THE STRAWBERRY PICKERS AND DONATORS

**Roger Marlow** suggested and organised picking strawberries growing on a vacant plot to be given to the Princess Alice Hospice. Strawberries were also donated by other plot holders.

One delivery has already been made and he received the following email from Maggie McHale at the Hospice.

Roger,

Will you send our appreciation to all at the Hampton Court Allotment Association for the strawberries. They were delicious and enjoyed by all who consumed them. Many, many thanks for thinking of us.

Best regards,  
Maggie McHale

## Companion planting.....

- the practice of growing crops that are naturally good together.

*This traditional method of crop growing is based on years of observations by dedicated growers and in a few cases backed up by science.*

A great example of companion planting in the US is known as Three Sisters. Native American farmers planted squash,

corn, and beans side by side. These grew perfectly together.

The corn acted as a trellis for the beans, the beans returned nutrients to the soil and the broad leaves of the squash suppressed weeds while locking moisture into the soil.

### Great companion plants.

#### Tomatoes + Basil

Basil has been said to improve the flavour of tomatoes and the strong scent of their leaves deters **aphids**.

#### Nasturtiums + French/Runner Beans

Plant Nasturtiums as a sacrificial crop. **Aphids** love them and this will lure them away from your beans.

#### Leeks + Carrots

The smell of leeks deters carrot root fly. The smell of carrots also helps deter **Leek Moth** from leeks.

#### Cabbage/Kale/Cauliflower + Mint

Mint will help to deter **Fea Beetles**, which chew irregular holes in the leaves of these particular brassicas.

(Also **Nasturtiums** will keep **caterpillars** away from Brassicas).

#### Courgettes + English Marigolds

English Marigold flowers are highly attractive to pollinating insects which will in turn pollinate your courgette flowers.

#### Summer Savory + Broad Beans.

Summer savory helps to repel **Blackfly**, a common pest of broad beans.

**The following six combinations are not at all good together.**

#### ✗ Lettuce + Broccoli

Lettuce is sensitive to chemicals found in residue left behind by broccoli plants. Sowing lettuce near broccoli, or in the spot where it used to grow, may hinder seed germination and growth

#### ✗ Onions + Peas

Never plant members of the onion family, including shallots and garlic with peas. Companion planters believe the onions can stunt pea (and bean) growth.

#### ✗ Potatoes + Tomatoes

Tomatoes and potatoes grown together mean trouble. They are both attacked by

the same blights, so when grown next to each other diseases spread more easily.

#### ✗ Peppers + Beans

Both peppers and beans are susceptible to anthracnose, a disease that ruins fruits by causing dark, soft spots to appear. If one gets it they both become infected when planted side-by-side.

#### ✗ Carrots + Dill

Dill and carrots are cast as enemies, however there is no scientific research that supports this observation by gardeners.

#### ✗ Cabbage + Strawberries

Cabbage family plants will have their growth impaired by growing strawberry plants close by.

## Literary Compost

**Never have a companion that casts you in the shade.**

Baltasar Gracian  
Spanish Philosopher and Writer 1601-1658

**A good companion shortens the longest road.**

Turkish Proverb

### SITE REMINDERS:

Site speed limit is 5mph;  
This applies to everyone!  
Please respect the limit.



**Bonfires are NOT permitted until 30th September.**

**Please don't wash your veg or tools in the water tanks.**

Please make sure your plot number can be clearly seen



### DIARY REMINDERS

**9th July - Summer Barbecue**

**13th August - EMGS Flower Show**

**8th & 9th October - Site work-days**

### Who's Who

CHAIR - Julie Smith  
smirkysmith1@hotmail.com

TREASURER - Tom Appleton  
tomcein@aol.com

SECRETARY - Sheena Clarke  
sheenaclarke0@gmail.com

SITE MANAGER - Jill McDermott  
macanjill@ntlworld.com

TRUSTEES - Sheena Clarke,  
Marie Mullard & Tom Appleton

MEMBERSHIP / LETTINGS -  
Piotr Hennig - piotr@admojo.co.uk

COMMITTEE - Marie Mullard  
mariemullard@gmail.com  
COMMITTEE - Ian Billett

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