

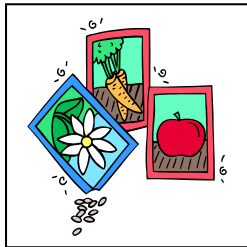
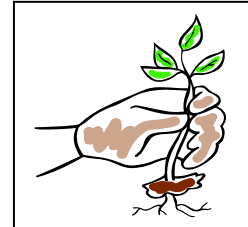


FARNHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Allotment April Newsletter

Springing into Action

Firstly I would like to extend a warm welcome to all the new allotment holders. It is always hard work when you take on a new allotment but advice is always available from myself. Please give me a call if you are not sure about something or need advice on what to grow where and also varieties to use.



Your allotment invoices are included with this newsletter. Also a letter explaining the costs involved in providing the allotment service.

This is an extremely busy time of year on the allotment (or should be). Sowing seeds and putting out plants. Please be watchful as we still may get a frost up until the end of May and have something handy, such as fleece, to cover up any tender plants.

VEGETABLES

SOW OUTDOORS

- ✚ French Beans (sow main crop in May with subsequent sowings to the end of June to harvest until the end of October)
- ✚ Runner Beans
- ✚ Beetroot
- ✚ Broccoli
- ✚ Winter Cabbage
- ✚ Savoy Cabbage
- ✚ Calabrese
- ✚ Carrots
- ✚ Cauliflower
- ✚ Kale
- ✚ Kohl Rabi
- ✚ Lettuce
- ✚ Courgette, marrow, pumpkin can be sown outside in late May
- ✚ Peas
- ✚ Radish
- ✚ Spring Onion
- ✚ Swede
- ✚ Turnip

SUCCESSIONAL SOWINGS

Many vegetables can be sown over a period of several months. They should be resown at regular intervals to ensure a constant supply of fresh produce.

You can include beetroot French beans carrots lettuce radish, spinach and turnip.

PLANT OUTDOORS

- ✚ Brussel Sprouts
- ✚ Summer Cabbage
- ✚ Red Cabbage
- ✚ Celery and Celeriac
- ✚ Leeks

PLANT IN GREENHOUSE

- ✚ Aubergine
- ✚ Peppers
- ✚ Tomatoes
- ✚ Cucumber (greenhouse varieties)

The more one gardens, the more one learns: and the more one learns, the more one realizes how little one knows.

I suppose the whole of life is like that
Vita Sackville West (1892- 1962)

FRUIT

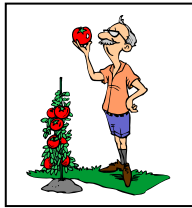
PLANTING

- ✚ Strawberries can be planted but you will need to remove the flowers to stop the plants fruiting so they can build up for next year.

OTHER FRUIT TASKS

- ✚ Compost around the base of fruit trees to try and retain moisture, particularly on young trees.
- ✚ Weed around the base of young fruit trees. Weeds compete for nutrients and affect how well young trees get established.

GENERAL NEWS



I would like to thank everyone who turned out to the lecture on Vegetable Growing by John Negus. It was a very enjoyable evening and enjoyed by everyone present. Don't forget that this lecture, once a year, is for you. If you have any ideas for future lectures please let me know or your site rep. This will be discussed at the next Liaison Group meeting in September.

Dates for your Dairy

1st -4th July

Annual Allotment Competition

This competition is run annually for the allotment holders on Farnham Town Council sites. Each site will have 1 winner and there will be an overall best allotment. Garden Vouchers to all the winners.

7th - 11th July

Annual Scarecrow Competition

This competition is run annually and all allotment holders are invited to make a scarecrow to be judged in two categories, traditional and non traditional. We have had only a few in the last couple of years so let's have lots this year for the Mayor to judge. Garden Vouchers for the winners of both categories.

26th July

Annual Allotment Show

This show is held at our West Street greenhouses and is solely for Farnham Town Council allotment holders. You will receive a schedule in due course but we have classes for veg, fruit and flowers also a children's class. After the show and prize giving we will be holding a BBQ. This is a bring your own food to cook and we will provide the means to cook it. More details in the next newsletter.

13th - 17th October

Pumpkin Competition

This is a new competition and no, it is not a spelling mistake. You will be able to enter your largest pumpkin into the competition and I will go to the site and measure the pumpkin. In the next newsletter will be an entry form to return to me or you can enter via the website. Full details next time.

Please try and enter where you can as these events are for you and it is always good to meet as many of you as possible.

In days gone by, it was not uncommon to see a farmer drop his trousers and pants and **sit down on the soil**. If the soil was not too cold, the farmer knew it was time to grow his crop.
If you want to avoid misunderstandings with fellow allotment holders, you are better off trying this old trick with your bare elbow.

Wireworms

Wireworms are the larvae of the ground click beetle. They attack the underground parts of the plants, damaging plants, damaging roots, tubers, corms and stems. Potatoes are particularly susceptible but they also attack carrots and beetroots. When numbers of wireworms are high they may also attack the roots of

strawberries, brassicas, beans, tomatoes and many seeds/seedlings.



Damage can occur all year but is concentrated in Spring and Autumn. Small holes appear on the outside of tuber or root crops. Cutting them open often reveals a network of tunnels which allows other pests and diseases to enter. On roots and stems small blackened pits can be seen and the plants may suddenly wilt and die.

The female click beetle lays its eggs just under the soil surface from May to June. They prefer grassland and weedy soil and so land that is newly cultivated is more susceptible to wireworm than well cultivated soil. The larvae hatch about one month after laying and feed on both living and dead plant material in the soil. Most crop damage occurs in the late spring/early summer, and again in early autumn, as the soil temperatures are most favourable at these times.

Numbers of wireworm can be reduced by

- Thoroughly turning the soil in the autumn, and before planting, to expose wireworm to their predators such as birds, frog beetles.
- Checking homemade compost before use and expose to predators if necessary.
- Harvesting susceptible crops early if the ground is known to be infested with wireworm.
- Burying raw potatoes in a number of places about 10 – 15cms below the soil surface. These should be removed from time to time and any wireworm destroyed.
- Before planting crops bury a net of pre soaked grain about 10cm down in the soil (a mix of half wheat, half corn pre-soaked for 24hrs to promote germination works well). The soil around the bait can be heated by covering with black plastic. The bait should be removed regularly and the wireworm destroyed.

Best wishes and good allotment gardening.

Kevin Taitt

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