

Message from the Committee

By now you will have received your invoice for your plot along with an accompanying letter about the AGM which is being held at the Victory Hall in Warsash from 7.30 on Wednesday 14th November. It would be good to see as many of you there as possible.

LARGE TYRES

Four very large tyres have been left at Allotment Road so if there is an enterprising person out there looking for an innovative way of growing then please help yourself to them.

Alternatively suggestions about how they can be removed would be very grateful, please pass them to your site manager.

FAREHAM IN BLOOM....and the awards are:

GOLD AND OVERALL WINNER:

Sue and Keith Johnson HPR plot 39b1

GOLD:

Steven Fauchon HPR plot 20d

Pam and John Barber Allotment Rd plot 34b/35b/37b

G and Mrs S Milam Lodge Rd plot 44c/44d

SILVER GILT:

John Clemo HPR plot 4a

Dave and Sharon Morgan HPR plot 6b2

Susan Pratt Lodge Rd plot 43c2

Julie Hammond Lodge Rd plot 41b2

SILVER:

Mike and Fiona Seddon Lodge Rd plot 43d1

BRONZE:

Graham Cull HPR plot 5c1

CERTIFICATES:

A Thompson Lodge Rd plot 41b1

Mr and Mrs Prater Lodge Rd plot 41c1

Evelyn Cook HPR plot 28b2



PUTTING YOUR ALLOTMENT TO BED FOR WINTER

Although you may still have plenty of crops in your allotment, ready to harvest and store, your plot will be emptying so you will need to start putting it to bed for the winter.

This is a good time of year, when you can draw a line under the successes and failures of this growing season and start looking forward to the next.

When clearing beds for winter it helps to have a routine. The following may help:

- Remove the remains of the old crops and compost anything that is not diseased. Burn or take to the tip any that you think may be diseased or too tough to break down in the compost bin.
- Tidy up any herb plants which have gone to seed.
- October and November are good months to undertake double digging, incorporating manure into the bottom of the trench and deepening your topsoil.
- With finer soils where double-digging each year is not necessary, lightly fork over the surface of the ground and remove any weeds before applying a winter "quilt". Depending on what you are going to use the area for next year, this can either be in the form of green manures, such as grazing rye, red clover or field beans etc. Broadcast the seed, rake it in then water gently, before finally netting it against the birds. In spring, about two to three weeks before you replant your crops, cut and dig in the manure. This will allow the plant material to breakdown into humus, releasing nutrients slowly over the next growing period.
- If you have any vacant beds that will be used for 'hungry' plants next season, dig it over then cover with a thick mulch of manure; available from **Abshot Squash Club (call Claire on 07780 992810)** and, as with green manure, will help to suppress weeds, keep in the moisture, add nutrients and bulk to the soil, and generally improve growing conditions for your plants. Leave the soil roughly dug in large clumps and the worms will break these up as they get the manure. The freezing and thawing of water in the soil will cause the soil to break up finely so becoming easier to handle in the spring.
- Alternatively, cover with a weed suppressant membrane such as Mypex which is available from the hut. Be sure to secure it well to prevent it blowing away in the wind.

Continued over

In the greenhouse

- If you've not already done so, clean all those dirty pots and bits you've left in there whilst you've been busy on the allotment.
- Wash the greenhouse down with detergent, disinfectant and a scrubbing brush.
- Clean both the glass to allow more light through in the dark days and the frame to remove any pests looking for a good spot to spend the winter.
- Insulate the greenhouse with bubble wrap if you are going to be using the greenhouse through the winter but don't forget to keep some ventilation to help prevent mould ruining your plants.
- Renew border soil if necessary, adding well rotted manure and home-made compost to new soil.
- Bring in any frost tender plants, for example dahlias, chrysanthemums etc., ready for taking new shoots next year.
- Strawberry plants can be potted up for an early crop and you can grow a hardy lettuce like Arctic King in your border to give you a salad whatever the weather.
- You can also give garlic, onion seeds, broad beans and sweet peas an early start in the greenhouse, before planting out in early spring.

General:

- Collect any remaining seed heads to dry off for sowing next year.
- Cut down asparagus foliage and mulch bed well with compost or well-rotted manure.
- Cover late sowings of French beans with cloches.
- Draw soil up around Broccoli stems and Brussels sprouts to protect from frost and stake tall plants to avoid wind-rock.
- Lift and store root vegetables in clamps or boxes of sand in a cool dry place. Treat Jerusalem Artichokes in the same way as you would Potatoes.
- Lift and split mature clumps of rhubarb. Protect Rhubarb and Globe Artichoke crowns with a mulch of manure or straw.
- Earth up celery for the last time.
- Protect Winter Salads like lettuce and endive from wetness by placing cloches over them.
- Prune, weed and mulch Strawberries with a good covering of manure or straw.
- Protect tender fruit, for example figs from winter frosts.
- Cut newly planted blackberry, loganberry and hybrid berry bushes down to within 9-12 in of the soil level. Prune newly planted raspberries hard after planting.
- Dig up a couple of roots of parsley and move them to a frame for winter use.
- Draw soil around swedes and turnips.



And lastly.....

When you have cleaned all your tools and maintained any machinery, made sure all water butts and run off pipes are in place and unblocked - **sit down with a well-earned drink and pick up your seed catalogues, ready to start planning what you are going to grow next year!**

COMPILED BY Rona—a tenant from Warsash