

Greenslate Community Farm

Project Experience Sheet

Subject



The following can be used to get an idea of what can be done on the allotment for each month of the year. If you have any further suggestions or ideas please submit them via the website.

April

April is a very busy month for allotment holders. Days with more daylight hours, warm sunshine (sometimes) and fewer frosts. Keep an eye on the weather forecasts and keep fleece and insulation for seedling to hand.

The Vegetable Plot

- Prepare for the growing season by adding a layer of compost into the beds. 50-70mm should be about right.
- Plant chitted potatoes directly into the ground on into planter bags.
- Asparagus spears can be cut
- Support pea plants
- Seedling for carrots should be thinned out.
- Remove weeds from seed beds and cover with a blackened membrane. This will suppress weed growth and keep the ground a few degrees warmer which will help new plants to grow,
- The following seeds can be sown directly onto prepared ground now.
 - Potatoes, Radish, Parsnips, **Carrots**, Swede, Beetroot, Turnips
 - Spinach, Swiss Chard (once the last frost has gone), Broccoli, **Cabbage** , **Cauliflowers**,
 - Peas, **Beans**, **Sweetcorn**
 - Spring Onions, Leeks, Shallots
 - **BOLD** = under a cloche
- Plants for growing out doors that can be planted now include:
 - Asparagus
 - Onion Sets, Garlic, Shallots
 - Chitted Potatoes
 - Fruit canes (raspberry/blackberry etc)
 - Fruit bushes and trees
- Marigolds can be used to reduce attract insects to your allotment. Now is the ideal time to sow seeds.

The Fruit Garden

- Strawberries can be added to prepared beds that have had plenty of rotted manure thoroughly dug in
- If a frost is expected, it's wise to protect fruit (and other smaller seedlings) with a fleece cover
- Canes and fruit bushes should be encouraged with the addition of a suitable fertiliser.

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May

We've all heard it before " *Ne'er cast a clout till May be out*". May be a busy month on the allotment but there's still chance of occasional frosts. Keep those fleece linings to hand.

Growing your own stuff is great but, while your marvellous produce is doing it's stuff and getting on with growing, so too are the weeds. Hoeing weeds is far easier and effective than letting them grow and then picking them. Gentle hoeing will prevent the weeds from taking root and establishing themselves.

The Vegetable Plot

- The following seeds can be sown directly onto prepared ground now.
 - Sprouts, Summer Cabbage
 - Celery, Celeriac
 - Leeks
 - **Sweetcorn**
 - **Courgette**
 - **Marrow, Pumpkin**
 - **BOLD** = under a cloche
- Plants for growing out doors that can be planted now include:

The Fruit Garden

- Place netting over fruit crops to prevent the birds enjoying your crops more than you do

June

The Vegetable Plot

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The Fruit Garden

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July

The Vegetable Plot

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The Fruit Garden

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August

The Vegetable Plot

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The Fruit Garden

- S

September

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October

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November

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December

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The Fruit Garden

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January

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February

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- S

March

The Vegetable Plot

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The Fruit Garden

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Lessons Learned:

- Hoeing is a great preventative measure for reducing weeds in allotments
- For a succession of produce, sow one set of seeds and a few weeks later so another set

Acknowledgements

Greenslate Community Farm would like to thank the following in assisting us with this project:

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- Websites
- Individuals
- Organisations
 - www.thompson-morgan.com
 - www.channel4.com
 - www.nsalg.org.uk
 -

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