



Allotment Holders Handbook

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Welcome to Allotment Gardening

This allotment guide has been put together by Castle Point Borough Council to help new allotment holders get started and to get the best from their plot.

Allotment gardening enables you to grow your own fresh fruit and vegetables, get the benefits of fresh air and is a great way to meet new people.

On the allotment site you will find experienced gardeners of all ages and many will be pleased to offer advice and guidance, don't be afraid to ask.

Unfortunately most plots are vacant due to them not being maintained, this means that new plots are generally let in an uncultivated state. It's likely the plots would have been uncultivated for a few months and weeds have grown.

Allotment plots need a lot of time and commitment to get the best out of them and achieve results. When considering taking on an allotment you must be able to give enough time to look after the plot as unattended plots soon become overrun with weeds putting your tenancy at risk.

If you experience difficulties that prevent you giving adequate time to your allotment, please advise us as soon as possible.

Getting Started

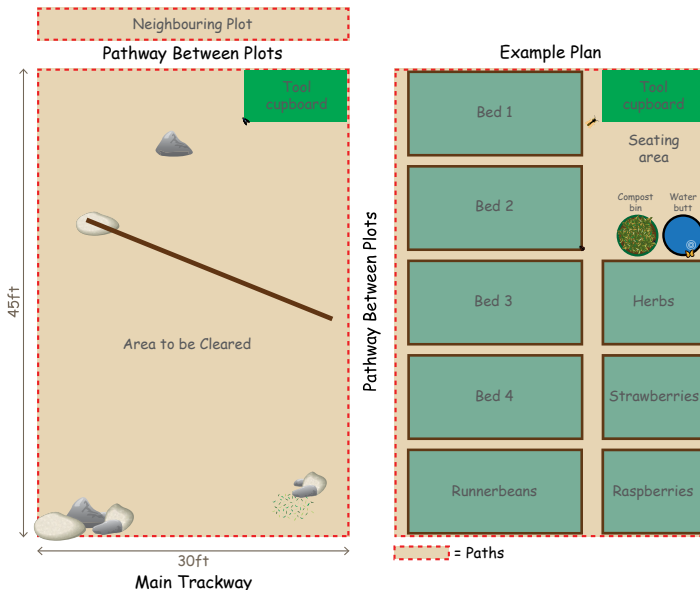
To make the best of your plot we would suggest that you plan ahead and make a sketch plan of your allotment. This will help you plan what you are going to do each month.

The best way to start is by clearing your plot. This can be quite a big task but bear in mind a wild plot is telling you that the ground is fertile. The key to clearing your plot is little and often and not try to do too much at once.

Firstly cut any grass and weeds down to ground level and then rake off and remove debris. Please consider composting where possible by creating a compost heap or having a compost bin on your plot.

To help keep the weeds at bay you could cover with black plastic or cardboard and manure. Carpet should not be used as it may contain chemicals which can leach into the soil. Mulches can help kill most weeds in the first year, but deep rooted weeds may need digging out.

You could consider dividing your plot into smaller areas which enable you to practice crop rotation.



Crop Rotation

If you grow the same crop in the same place year after year you will get a build up of pest and diseases specific to that crop. Different crops take different levels of nutrients from the soil and inevitably over time the nutrients become unbalanced.

This is often referred to as 'sick soil' and even the addition of fertilisers is unlikely to help, since it is likely the trace elements are depleted.

The simplest rule of crop rotation is not to grow the same thing in the same place two years running. In fact the wider the gap between particular crops occupying the same piece of ground the better.

The list below should help you identify what crops need to go together in crop rotation.

Brassicas (cabbage family)	Brussel sprouts, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, kale, swede, turnip.
Legumes (bean and pea family)	Peas, runner beans, french beans, broad, beans.
Solanaceae (potato family)	Aubergine, tomato, potatoes, peppers.
Alliums (onion family)	Onion, garlic, shallot, leek.
Umbeliferae (carrot and root family)	Carrot, parsnip, celeriac, celery, coriander, parsley.
Cucurbits (squash and marrow family)	Courgette, marrows, pumpkins, cucumbers, melons, squashes.
Chenopodiaceae (beetroot family)	Beetroot, swiss chard, spinach.
Miscellaneous	Herbs, other salad leaves, lettuce, fruit, sweetcorn, asparagus, chicory, artichoke.

Basic crop rotation

- Brassicas follow legumes
- Legumes follow a manured crop
- Never manure carrots or parsnips
- If any bed contains white or club rot, avoid planting onions and brassicas in that area.

Basic 4 year crop rotation

	Bed 1	Bed 2	Bed 3	Bed 4
Year 1	Enrich bed with compost or manure and plant potatoes and tomatoes (solanceae). When crop has finished plant leeks for an overwinter crop, and onions and garlic.	Sow carrots & parsnips (umbeliferae) and beetroot and swiss chard (chenopodiaceae). Fill the gaps with lettuce and salad leaves. Follow with a green manure in winter	Sow brassicas - kale, rocket and cabbage in summer and sprouts and winter cabbage for the winter	Harvest your onions and leeks from the previous year, then sow peas and beans (legumes). Add lime once the crop has finished for next years brassicas
Year 2	Harvest your onions and leeks from the previous year, then sow peas and beans (legumes). Add lime once the crop has finished for next years brassicas.	Enrich bed with compost or manure and plant potatoes and tomatoes (solanceae). When crop has finished plant leeks for overwinter crop and onions and garlic.	Sow carrots and parsnips (umbeliferae) and beetroot and swiss chard (chenopodiaceae). Fill gaps with lettuce and salad leaves. Follow with green manure in winter	Sow brassicas - kale, rocket and cabbage in summer and sprouts and winter cabbage in winter.
Year 3	Sow brassicas - kale, rocket and cabbage in summer and sprouts and winter cabbage for the winter	Harvest your onions and leeks from the previous year, then sow peas and beans (legumes). Add lime once the crop has finished for next years brassicas.	Enrich bed with compost or manure and plant potatoes and tomatoes (solanceae). When crop has finished plant leeks for overwinter crop and onions and garlic.	Sow carrots and parsnips (umbeliferae) and beetroot and swiss chard (chenopodiaceae). Fill gaps with lettuce and salad leaves. Follow with green manure in winter
Year 4	Sow carrots and parsnips (umbeliferae) and beetroot and swiss chard (chenopodiaceae). Fill gaps with lettuce and salad leaves. Follow with green manure in winter	Sow brassicas - kale, rocket and cabbage in summer and sprouts and winter cabbage for the winter	Harvest your onions and leeks from the previous year, then sow peas and beans (legumes). Add lime once the crop has finished for next years brassicas	Enrich bed with compost or manure and plant potatoes and tomatoes (solanceae). When crop has finished plant leeks for overwinter crop and onions and garlic.

Growing Crops

Now that you have your plot cleared and ready you can think about growing some crops.

You could consider growing from seed, most packets have printed instructions on how and when to sow, make your decisions on when to sow as you know the local weather conditions. Growing from seed gives you a wider variety to choose from.

Consider sowing seeds generously. There is a saying 'four seeds in a row, one for the rook, one for the crow, one will wither and one will grow'.

Early sowing can be done under glass, grown on and then the young plant transplanted out on to the allotment. Others can be sown directly into the prepared seed bed.

Sowing seeds indoors

- ❖ Fill small pots or seed trays with compost. Use a watering can with a fine rose to moisten the compost and leave to drain.
- ❖ Sprinkle seeds evenly and thinly over the surface of the compost leaving a good space between the seeds. Cover seeds with a thin layer of compost.
- ❖ Cover with a sheet of glass or an inverted polythene bag. Place in a warm environment and keep compost moist.
- ❖ Remove cover as seedlings emerge and continue to keep in a warm environment. They are ready to be 'pricked' out when the first true leaves emerge.
- ❖ Handle seedlings by their first leaves. Fill seed tray with fresh compost and plant seedlings, bury roots up to base of the first leaves.
- ❖ After 6 weeks the young plants will be large enough to pot individually. After a further 3 weeks transport to larger pots or to your allotment.



Sowing seeds directly outside

- ❖ Use a rake to level the surface to create a crumble like tilth. Pick off any remaining weeds and debris.
- ❖ Place a cane or stake across the bed and lightly push into the surface. This will create a straight drill (shallow depression) whose depth should be directed on the seed packet.
- ❖ Add water to the row before sowing.
- ❖ Scatter the seeds into the bottom of the drill, a finger width apart is usually right for small seeds. Fine seeds can be thinned if you do end up sowing them too thickly.
- ❖ Use a rake to gently cover the seeds with soil, filling the drill back in again.
- ❖ Place a label at one end to help you remember what you've sown.

Vegetable Plants

You can buy vegetable plants, although you may find that you are limited in choice to only those that are available over the counter. In your first year it may be an idea to plant crops which are easy to grow. Growing from a plant can be easier than growing from seed.

Most vegetable plants can be planted directly into the allotment soil when the weather is suitable and the danger of frost has passed.

- ❖ Prepare the planting area by digging over with a fork. Remove all weeds especially perennial weeds and their roots
- ❖ Break up any large clods of soil until the surface is made up of fine crumbs of soil, this is called a fine tilth
- ❖ Work out the correct spacing for your plants and position them in their planting position
- ❖ Dig a hole for each plant and loosen the soil at the bottom and on the sides with a hand fork
- ❖ Take each plant out and position in the prepared hole ensuring that the top of the roots is just below the level of the surrounding soil. Fill in around the roots and firm gently
- ❖ Water each plant well
- ❖ Tall plants such as beans and tomatoes will require some form of stake to support their growth

It is helpful to know when to plant what types of vegetables, a small guide on what to plant throughout the year can be found below.

January

January is the best time plan what you are going to grow and order seeds and seed potatoes. Pick your winter crops and as soon as you are able start to dig over your plot.

You can sketch out a plan of your allotment and plan where you would like to grow your fruit/vegetables.

If you get over to your plot during milder days you could cover empty beds with well rotted manure or compost.

Start to chit seed potatoes when they arrive (allow them to start sprouting).

There are some things you can sow or plant

Broad Beans - if the ground is not frozen you can sow broad beans, otherwise sow in pots and keep undercover until you can plant out in the spring.

Garlic - this can be planted in mild areas if the soil is not frozen or waterlogged. You may have to wait until February or March if the conditions are not quite right.

Onions and Leeks - to give leeks and onions the longest possible growing season you can sow the seeds in modules and keep indoors. These can be transplanted outdoor in March or April.

Peas - for an early crop of peas you can sow seeds in pots under glass and harden off to plant outdoors in March or April.

Rhubarb - you can plant new sets or divide and replant old crowns just ensure the ground isn't waterlogged.

Basic Growing Guide

February

You can continue your winter digging providing the ground isn't too frozen or too wet to work with.

You can harvest cabbages, brussel sprouts, leeks, parsnips and swede.

Chit seed potatoes, make sure if you haven't already purchased some to do so by the end of the month.

Plant or sow

Broad Beans - these can be sown directly outside.

Brussel sprouts and sprouting broccoli - sow early varieties under glass and plant out in April or May.

Lettuces - sow fast growing varieties indoors for an early crop in April or May. Thin out seedlings and plant in cold frames in March.

Spinach - sow fast growing varieties indoor and plant out in March for an early crop.

Tomato and cucumber - sow seeds indoors now and to ensure germination use a heated propagator.

To do List

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March

As the weather begins to warm up you can now start planting and sowing outdoors. Prepare beds and remove any weeds which have survived over the winter.

Asparagus - you can grow this from seed but it is easier to buy ready to plant rootstocks. Plant in prepared trenches.

Aubergines, peppers and chillies - these need as long as possible to ripen so start sowing these indoors this month to get ahead.

Broccoli and other brassicas - sow brussels outdoors and early cauliflower from seed could be planted out now but may still require some protection.

Herbs - coriander, fennel, oregano, dill and chives can be planted towards the end of the month.

Root and stem vegetables - these can now be sown outdoors but under cloches or frames.

Potatoes - these should now be able to be planted outside.

Strawberries - plant out cold stored runners as soon as they become available.

To do List

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Basic Growing Guide

April

This is a good month to get ahead and sow seeds indoors our outside in a cold frame.

You can harvest spring cabbages, cauliflower, sprouting broccoli and any remaining leeks.

Plant

Carrots - you can now plant most root crops outdoors.

Celery - to ensure germination sow these indoors and harden off next month to plant out in June.

Pumpkins, courgettes and other squashes - these can be sown indoors for planting out next month.

Onions and leeks - these can now be sown outdoors.

Sweetcorn - it is worth getting this off to an early start by sowing seeds in pots indoors as sweetcorn has a long growing season.

You can also plant asparagus, herbs, peas, potatoes, broad beans, lettuce and other salad leaves.

To do List

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May

This month can have higher temperatures with longer days and is the month to begin sowing and planting outdoors. Make sure you only transplant tender seedlings once the last chance of frost has gone. Harden off any plants indoors before planting out.

Cover any strawberries over night with cloches for an early crop but make sure to remove these during the day.

Make sure you keep the weeds at bay and younger plants well watered.

Brussels, cauliflowers and red cabbage - when planting these make sure that they are well spaced out as they grow quite large.

Celery - begin planting out this month.

Courgettes, pumpkins and squashes - plant these in soil which has been enriched with plenty of organic matter.

Leeks - this is normally the first month to transport out leek plants.

Sweetcorn - you can now start to plant this out in blocks.

To do List

Basic Growing Guide

June

Mid point of the year and being the end of spring and the start of summer it offers the last opportunity to sow many seeds. This month does also offer the opportunity to harvest some crops. Unfortunately now is the time where it is more likely you will suffer attacks from birds, insects, slugs and snails.

You can now think about harvesting peas, early potatoes, broad beans, beetroot, onions, summer salad and strawberries.

It is a good idea to keep a careful watch for pests and to protect your crops appropriately.

Aubergines - plant these out by the end of the month to give them as much growing time as possible.

Cabbages and Brussel sprouts - plant out the first winter cabbages and sprouts.

Cauliflower - any sown in spring should be planted out now.

Chillies and peppers - if the danger of frost has passed then plant them out after hardening off.

Courgettes, pumpkins, marrow and squashes - plant out and allow plenty of space and keep them well watered.

To do List

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July

Temperatures are likely to be at their highest and you should now be able to start harvesting from your plot. This can be a dry month so watering is crucial as most crops require a steady unbroken supply of water.

Keep weeding regularly to keep weeds at bay.

Before harvesting garlic, shallots and onions dry these out. Loosen the soil around the roots, lift the bulbs and lie on the soil surface in the sun. The drier they are the longer they will keep.

Cabbages - this is the time to start sowing cabbages for next spring and is the last chance to plant out winter cabbages, autumn cauliflowers and brussels.

French beans and peas - July is the last chance to plant these as the pods are unlikely to develop if planted any later.

Leeks - finish transplanting these out.

Salad crops - sow more lettuce, rocket and salad leaves for an ongoing supply in autumn.

To do List

Basic Growing Guide

August

Almost everything should now be coming to fruition and daily trips to your plot should see you returning home with potatoes, carrots, peppers, sweetcorn, peas, onions and tomatoes.

Continue to regularly water your crops and keep up the weeding.

Make sure you regularly harvest courgettes and runner beans.

Earth up potatoes and around brassicas to support unsteady stems.

Any strawberry runners can now be pegged down to root, then potted up ready to transplant.

There is little to sow or plant now however, as space becomes vacant from harvested crops you can begin to plant out overwintering crops.

Cauliflowers - this is the time to transplant spring and winter cabbages. If they overwinter successfully they should give you a harvest in the new year.

Broccoli and cabbages - you can sow a few more cabbages for harvesting in the spring in a temporary seed beds or pots until you have space available. Cover with nets to protect from pests.

Lettuce and salad crops - it is possible to sow lettuce although they may not germinate if the weather is too hot.

To do List

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September

This month marks the start of autumn and all of your early crops should now be coming to an end. Later crops will now be coming in to harvest and you should be lifting main crop potatoes and pulling leeks.

Cabbages - spring cabbages should now be transplanted this month or next into their final growing position.

Onions - overwintering onion sets can now be planted. Make sure the ground is well prepared before planting.

Strawberries - plant any new strawberry plants.

October

As the days start to get shorter and the temperatures start to drop it is likely there will be early frosts.

Now is the time to start clearing up and composting anything left from summer's harvest.

Lift root vegetables where possible and store.

Broad beans - early varieties can now be sown for overwintering and should give you a crop in June.

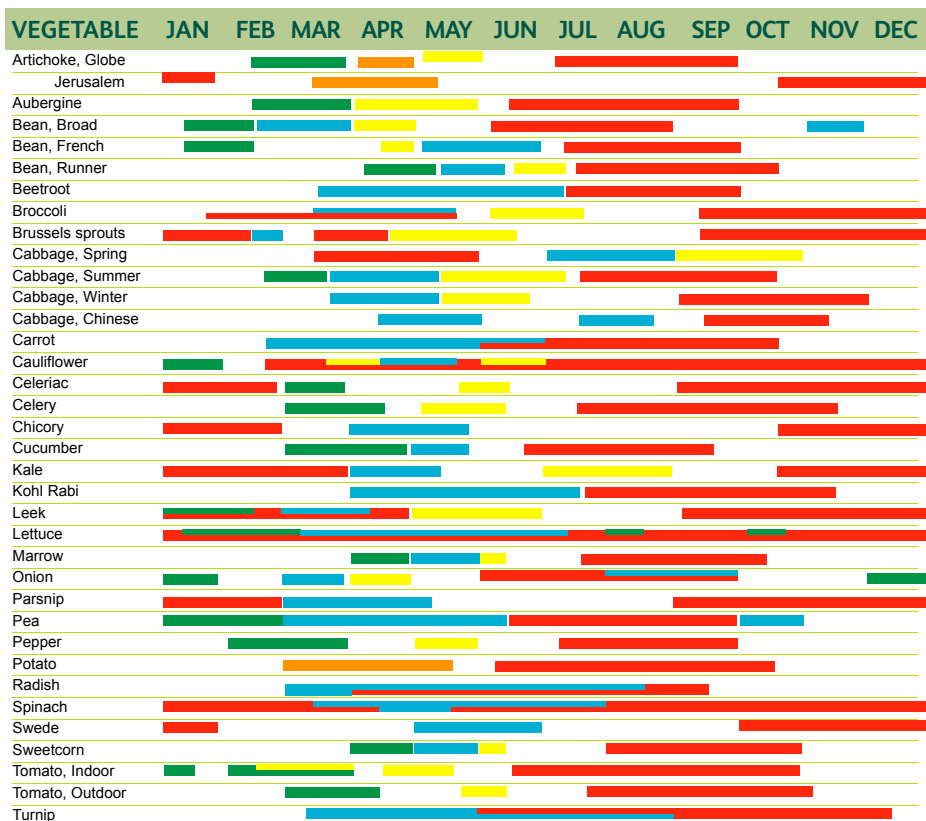
Cabbages - this will be your last chance to transplant cabbages and make sure you plant out in firmed ground and protect from pests.

Garlic - as long as the ground is not waterlogged then garlic can be planted.

Basic Growing Guide

November and December

Carry out winter digging and clear weeds. This is a good time to apply compost or well rotted manure to beds and get the ground prepared for next year's planting.



KEY

■ = Sowing indoors, under cover
■ = Sowing outdoors

■ = Planting tubers, sets or offsets
■ = Planting out seedlings
■ = Harvesting

Companion Planting

Companion planting is about creating plant communities which have mutual benefits to each other. It can be a very organic way of protecting your crops from pests or it could help improve pollinations of fruit and vegetable crops.

The below table shows a list of plants, their favoured companions and those plants you should not grow together.

Plant	Companion	Antagonist
Aubergine	Beans	
Beetroot	Dwarf beans, Onion	Runner beans
Broad Beans	Cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, potatoes, thyme	Onion family
Beans (Dwarf)	Aubergine, beetroot, celery, potatoes, sweetcorn, cucumber, strawberries	Onion family
Beans (Runner)	Marjoram, sweetcorn	Cabbage, onions
Broccoli	Broad beans, caraway, dill, mint, potatoes, rosemary, sage, thyme	Runner beans, strawberries, tomatoes
Brussel sprouts	Broad beans, caraway, dill, mint, potatoes, rosemary, sage, thyme	Runner beans, strawberries, tomatoes
Cabbage	Broad beans, caraway, dill, mint, potatoes, rosemary, sage, thyme	Runner beans, strawberries, tomatoes
Carrots	Broad beans, caraway, dill, mint, potatoes, rosemary, sage, thyme	Runner beans, strawberries, tomatoes
Cauliflower	Broad beans, caraway, dill, mint, potatoes, rosemary, sage, thyme	Runner beans, strawberries, tomatoes

Companion Planting

Plant	Companion	Antagonist
Celery	Dwarf beans, cabbage family, leek, lettuce, tomatoes	
Garlic	Beetroot, carrots, lettuce, raspberries, strawberries, tomatoes	Beans and peas
Leek	Carrots, celery	Beans
Lettuce	Carrots, celery, cucumber, garlic, radish, strawberries	Fennel, rue
Marrow	Fennel, sweetcorn	Potatoes, sage, thyme
Mint	Cabbage family, peas, potatoes	
Onion	Beetroot, carrots, parsnips, tomatoes	Beans and peas
Parsnips	Onions	
Peas	Beans, carrots, cucumber, radish, sweetcorn, turnips	Garlic, horseradish, potatoes
Potatoes	Horseradish, mint, parsley	Marrow family, peas, sweetcorn
Pumpkin	Sweetcorn	Potatoes
Radish	Cucumber, lettuce, peas	
Squash	Sweetcorn	Potatoes, rosemary, thyme
Strawberries	Garlic, lettuce, dwarf beans	Cabbage family
Swedes	Peas	
Sweetcorn	Dwarf beans, potatoes	
Tomatoes	Asparagus, carrots, celery, onion, parsley	Cabbage family, potatoes
Turnips	Peas, radish, thyme	

There are a vast number of pests, weeds and diseases that can affect your crops but don't let this put you off allotment gardening. Luckily, in any one season the chances are that you will only come across a few of the vast array of pests and diseases.

Listed below are some of the more common Pests:



Aphids - These are small, sap sucking insects which suck the sap of the plant with often devastating effects. They deposit a sticky honeydew on which disease spores and mould can stick to causing further problems.



Blackbirds - These are generally only a problem when soft fruit is ripe. The most effective way to deter blackbirds is to use netting positioned so that they cannot perch on it and still access the fruit.



Cabbage White Butterfly - The problem is not the butterfly but the caterpillar, which has a large appetite. Make sure you check leaves of cabbages when butterflies are about. If you notice any eggs rub these off with your fingers, do this for any small larvae which may have hatched. Try covering cabbages with a fine netting as this will prevent the butterflies from laying their eggs in the first place.



Carrot Root Fly - The larvae stage of the carrot fly is very destructive and will eventually tunnel through the roots of carrots. Celery and parsnips can also be attacked. Females generally lay their eggs in the soil beside the host plant. These insects are low fliers so surrounding with a polythene barrier around 60cm high should keep the crops protected.

Pests & Diseases



Club Root - This is quite a serious and common disease that affects brassicas. The disease is a slime mould that can survive as resting spores in the soil. It particularly likes warmer temperatures and moist conditions.



Pea Moth - This is the most common type of pest of peas but is normally only a problem between June and August. Adults will lay their eggs when the peas come in to flower and the grubs then feed inside of the forming pods.



Slugs and Snails - Most slugs and snails like to live on the plants we like to eat or look at. Traps can be made by using wet sacking or grapefruit skins. Slugs will take cover and lay their eggs on the underneath and are therefore easily removed. A continuous band of copper around vulnerable plants should keep slugs out as they tend not to cross anything made from copper.



Whitefly - Unfortunately these very small white flies can be a real problem and are particularly fond of brassicas in the open. They tend to be on the underside of leaves and deposit a thick honeydew on which mould can grow.

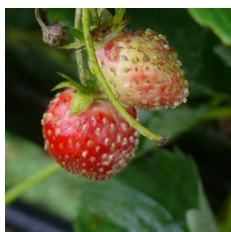
Always try to protect any vulnerable crops with mesh or fine netting.



Blossom End Rot - this is a physiological disorder related to calcium deficiency which causes the bottom of tomatoes to turn black. Ensure you regularly water tomatoes to prevent this problem.



Potato and Tomato Blight - First shows as black or brown blotches on the leaves or stems. In more severe cases the plants turn yellow and eventually die. In the early stages potato tubers can be saved if the top growth is cut to the ground, removed and burned. Tomatoes will become brown and inedible. All infected fruit and plants must be destroyed.



Strawberry Mildew - This is quite a common disease of strawberries and causes dark patches to appear on the upper surface of the leaves with a silvery grey mould on the underside. The fruit can also be affected. You can spray with fungicide at the beginning of flowering until the fruit begins to colour but make sure to remove and burn all foliage.



White Rot (Onions) - This will show as a mould growth near the neck of onions which will then rot. Remove bulbs and do not put into store. If caught early you can spray with fungicide.

Do's and Dont's

A few things to take into consideration when you take on your new plot.

Do's

- ✓ Read your agreement as this outlines the rules.
- ✓ Ensure that your plot has a number which is clearly visible.
- ✓ Keep your allotment neat and tidy and as free from weeds as possible.
- ✓ Do respond to any warning letters issued within the timescale or your agreement will be at risk.
- ✓ You must cultivate and keep weed free at least 50% of your plot. So always try to keep your plot neat and tidy and weed free.
- ✓ Ensure that gates are closed at all times and are always locked when you leave the site.
- ✓ Notify us when you decide to give up your plot.
- ✓ Make sure that all belongings are removed from site within 2 weeks of ending your tenancy.
- ✓ Do notify us if any of your details change.
- ✓ Prepare your beds before the growing season to make sure they are weed free and have been cultivated. If your soil is well prepared the less, digging and weeding you will have to do.
- ✓ Over the winter period take time to plan what you want to grow the following season.
- ✓ Try to rotate crops where possible. This will limit the damage done by soil borne pests and diseases.
- ✓ Do dispose of waste responsibly and compost where possible.

Dont's

- ✗ You are not to sub-let all or part of your plot.
- ✗ You must not use your plot for any trade or business.
- ✗ You are not to bring any form of rubbish onto the site.
- ✗ Do not allow weeds to seed or spread and cause a nuisance to other tenants.
- ✗ Don't use any carpets as they may break down and release harmful chemicals into the soil.
- ✗ Waste is not to be disposed of on any part of the site.
- ✗ No bonfires are allowed on site, this includes the use of an incinerator.
- ✗ You are not to go onto any other plot without the permission to do so.
- ✗ You are not to cause a nuisance to other plot holders.
- ✗ You are not to get any copies of the keys to the site made. Keys must be obtained through the allotment officer.
- ✗ Sheds, greenhouses etc are not to be erected without written permission from the Council.

Rental

Allotment rents are payable in advance in 1 April each year, this covers the period of 1 April to 31 March. Any allotment rent outstanding for 40 days or more the tenant will be issued with a notice to quit letter to vacate their plot.

Vacating an Allotment Plot

If you are no longer able to work your plot and would like to give your plot up, please advise the Council as soon as possible. You can do this by using any other the methods listed below. Please make sure that you contact us as soon as you decide you no longer wish to continue with your plot as the sooner we know, the sooner we can re-allocated to somebody on the waiting list.

Don't forget to return all keys so that we are able to refund any deposit paid.

Email: streetscene@castlepoint.gov.uk

Post: Environment Services
Castle Point Borough Council,
Council Offices,
Kiln Road,
Thundersley,
Benfleet, Essex, SS7 1TF

Phone: [01268 882200](tel:01268882200) (option 4)

Trackway & Car Parking

Vehicles must be left in the car park (where provided), and not taken onto the grass trackways.

Wheelbarrows should be used to transport items to and from your plot. During the summer months, heavy items may be taken to your plot via the trackway, but you must remove your vehicle from site immediately after unloading.

The Council will not undertake repair to trackway damaged by misuse of vehicles, and a locking bollard may be put in place to prevent vehicular access during the winter period.

No aggregate or other must be laid onto the track at any time.

Allotment Inspection Process

Inspections will be carried out monthly April - October and then twice during November - March. Additional inspections may be carried out if required.

New plot holders will be subject to inspections along with other plots 3 months after their agreement started.

The purpose of inspections is to ensure that all plots are being fully worked and to take appropriate action with plot holders who are not working their plot.

During inspections we will be looking at the following:-

- ❖ That the plot is kept in a clean and tidy condition, and free from rubbish.
- ❖ Sheds, greenhouses and any storage on plots are in a good condition.
- ❖ Plots are free from perennial and annual weeds.
- ❖ That there is a good level of cultivation.
- ❖ That at the very least 50% of the plot is in use and being cultivated.
- ❖ That there are no weeds affecting a neighbouring plot.

Allotment Inspection Process

If on a visit it is found that your plot is not being fully worked then you will be issued with a formal letter requesting that you make improvements to your plot before the next inspection is carried out. During the next site inspection we will check all plots and if significant improvements have been made then no further action will be taken. We will write to advise you of this. Should we find that no improvements have been made to your plot we will issue the following.

- ❖ A warning letter requesting that you make immediate improvements to your plot within 14 days and to advise that if this is not done your agreement will be terminated.
- ❖ If no improvements have been made then you will receive a final letter terminating your agreement. This letter will give you 2 weeks' notice to clear any storage, tools etc from your plot.
- ❖ A final letter will be issued to provide confirmation that your agreement has been terminated and that the plot will now be offered to the next person on the waiting list.

Useful Contacts

Royal Horticultural Society

The Royal Horticultural Society provides advice from getting started on your allotment through to growing your crops and how to care for them.

Website: www.rhs.org.uk

The National Allotment Society (NSALG)

The National Allotment Society offer support, guidance and advice to their members and those with an interest in allotment gardening.

Website: www.nsalg.org.uk

Telephone: **01536 266576**

Email: natsoc@nsalg.org.uk

Allotment & Gardens

This website is for all allotment holders, vegetable growers and gardeners. They provide news, information, advice and help for those growing their own vegetables, fruit and herbs.

Website: www.allotment.org.uk