Please forward or share with as many plotholders as possible.

View this email in your browser

MONTHLY ROUNDUP

BIRMINGHAM & DISTRICT ALLOTMENTS COOPERATIVE

Birmingham & District Allotment Cooperative : 2024 Issue 7

On the Plot

The most important job this month is to ensure that you pay your rent by November 9th to avoid a late payment fee.

Traditionally it would be a time for clearing the plot and starting mulching or manuring to enrich the soil ready for next year but the current warm weather means that some crops are still growing and plenty of harvesting is still taking place. For many who are in the "No Dig Camp" it is time to cover beds with cardboard and do some serious work on the compost heap.

Allotment on line has these suggestions as to what you can be doing.

Sow over-wintering vegetables
Harvest pumpkins and squashes
Dig over the soil

What to grow in October
Onions

Garlic
Peas
Black Radish
Hardy Basil
Broad Beans
Cauliflower
Over wintering greens and brassicas

(*https://www.allotmentonline.co.uk/october*)

Whilst there is still running water on site it is the last chance to wash down greenhouses and polytunnels. this video from Green Tubers has some tips which might be useful. Although here in Birmingham hosepipes are only for filling water butts so washing things down is a bit more time consuming.

THIS MONTH'S YOUTUBE TIP

Rents: October 2024

Allotments are rented on a yearly basis. Rent is due on 1 October each year. If you take on a plot after 1 April, you will receive a 50% discount.

You will be charged a late payment fee of £10 if your rent is not paid by 9 November.

A reduced rate is offered to pensioners.

Allotment annual rent charges from 1 October 2024

Plot category	**Yearly rent**	**Yearly rent for over 65s**
Mini (category A* or M)	£63.00	£34.00
Small (category A)	£78.00	£41.00
Standard (category B or C)	£115.00	£60.00
Large (category D or E)	£141.00	£72.00
Raised bed	£19.00	£12.00

Information from BCC
website: https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20090/allotments/173/allotments_information/3

Congratulations

Congratulations to Dave Hubball, BDAC Life Vice-President and plotholder at Thornbridge Road, for his second place at Malvern Autumn Show. Dave's commitment to everything he undertakes is truly amazing not only does he put countless hours into producing such blooms, he also grows dahlias and is Chair of the Birmingham Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Show. His example is one to consider before you say you have not got time to do something.

The annual half-yearly meeting will be at 2pm on 16th November 2024 at Bordesley Green Allotments, Bordesley Green B9 5PD. *(This is a change in date as previously advertised as BCFC are at home and people travelling from North of the city would be delayed.)* **The agenda is now available. The meeting is open to all association members. Anybody who wishes to raise any item should forward it to secretary@bdacallotments.co.uk**

Currently the agenda includes reports from a number of working parties and progress towards full cooperative status, (e.g. Governance & Infrastructure, Management of Sites and Associations, Finance) Plus the opportunity for associations and individuals to contribute in a slot now called "Just a minute" .

Wins
Whinges
Wisdom
Woes
Worries
1 MINUTE

Chickens on the Plot

People keeping chickens on an allotment are required by law to register with the government. A maximum of 12 birds is allowed. The only other birds allowed are bantams. Cockerels are not allowed. Some associations may have local rules that do not allow the keeping of any birds.

To register go to https://www.gov.uk/guidance/register-as-a-keeper-of-less-than-50-poultry-or-other- captive-birds

Keeping chicken requires you to tend to their upkeep and well being: More than likely this requires someone attending your plot at least twice per day regardless of weather and other circumstances. Plot inspections should include monitoring that minimum welfare conditions are being followed. One of the best sources for guidance on keeping chickens can be found on the RSPCA website.
https://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/farm/farmanimals/chickens/environment Indoors

Chickens need a warm, dry and well-ventilated chicken house.
This should have:

A big enough entrance - this should allow your chickens to pass through easily without having to crouch. More than one entrance helps avoid bullying and encourages them to use the outdoor area.

- Space - there should be enough space for chickens to exercise, stretch their wings and carry out normal chicken behaviour. Roughly 12 square metres should be enough for 30 birds, though this depends on the size and numbers of chickens and layout of the house.
- Covered flooring - this should be covered with dry material such as wood shavings or straw to allow foraging and dustbathing (particularly important when it's wet outside). You should top this up or replace it

when needed.
- Perches - these should be around 3 to 5cm wide with rounded edges, and the height should suit the size of the birds. There should be enough space for all chickens to comfortably roost at the same time (from 15cm per chicken), and enough space between perches to let them get up and down without hurting themselves.
- Nest boxes - egg-laying hens need quiet, enclosed nest boxes. These should be draught-free and lined with a clean, dry, comfortable nesting material, such as straw or wood shavings.

You also should give your chickens food and water in their chicken house. Clean the house and everything inside regularly and disinfect it to remove parasites.

Outdoor area

As well as their chicken house, your chickens will need an outdoor area to roam in. This should have:

- Short grass - keep grass short, as long strands can become trapped in the chickens' digestive system.
- Space - the area should be large enough to allow wet, muddy or barren areas to be sectioned off to recover and to minimise the risk of disease, while still allowing enough space for chickens to roam on good pasture.
- Shelter - provide overhead cover, such as small trees or purpose-built shelters, to give protection from the sun, bad weather and wild animals, and to encourage them to explore. Dry soil - where they can dust bathe and forage. Food and water outdoors - outside feed and water should be sheltered to keep it clean and dry, and to avoid attracting rodents and wild birds.
- Fencing - fences should be well maintained and provide protection against wild animals. This should also ensure that your chickens can't escape or become trapped or injured.

Flo Pickering Fund

Following some sites being left with half finished work the money to complete 14 outstanding projects once more seems to be ready for completion. Sites where work is scheduled to take place are listed below:

- LO1 - Bleak Hill
- LO2 - School Lane
- LO3 - Bramble Hall Hayes
- LO4 - Pool Lane
- LO5 - Francis Road
- LO6 - Coventry Road
- LO7 - Uffculme
- L08 - Greenaleigh Road
- LO9 - Henlow Rd
- LO10 - Woodthorpe Road
- LO11 - Strawberry Dene Selly Oak
- LO12 - Coney Green
- LO13 - Pereira Road
- LO14 - Shaftesbury Road

All sites should have been contacted but if you need further details contact the treasurer@bdacallotments.co.uk

BDAC are currently discussing the way in which the Council allocates the money and what it can be used for. We hope to announce when applications for the next tranche in the near future.
(The fund was created through an agreement between the BDAC and the City Council, that ensures a percentage of any monies gained by Birmingham City Council through the sale of allotment land has to be spent on allotments.)

Following the recent resignation of Executive members a number of vacancies exist for any plotholder in Birmingham who thinks they might have an interest in the support and encouragement of other sites and plotholders. Please come along to the "Half Yearly" or contact the secretary for more details

The Executive are also seeking someone preferably with knowledge of Wordpress and/or MailChimp. Initially the role would simply be an emergency back-up for the current Comms Group Chair.

Copyright © 2024 Birmingham & District Allotment Association, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.