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 8

On the Plot

For many Birmingham plotholders the main job is still trying to recover from the storms that devastated some sites.

For those of us with a bit of time available here are a few ideas

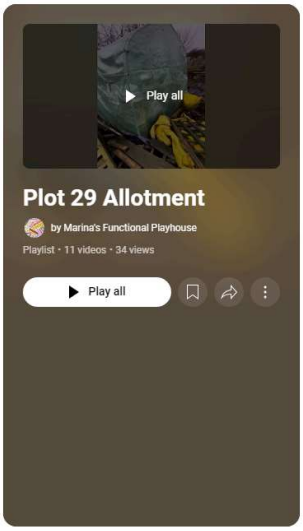
My top tasks for December include:

- Cut autumn raspberries back to ground level.
- Have you ordered your **seed potatoes** yet?
- Plant out bare root shrubs, roses and trees.
- If you've been forcing bulbs for an indoor display, now is the time to bring them inside to a well-lit, cool spot.
- Parsnips and Brussels sprouts will have been frosted by now and so will be perfect for your Christmas lunch. Do stake your sprouts to prevent wind rock damage.
- Keep raking up any remaining fallen leaves and bag them to make leaf mould. It's a wonderful soil conditioner and it's free!
- It's too late to prune plum trees, but your **apple trees** will appreciate a tidy-up.

- Carefully brush any snow from shrubs and plants as the frozen weight can otherwise cause breakage and damage.
- Keep off the grass in frosty weather. Those black footprints won't do it any good!
- Check through to ensure that you have all the **vegetable seeds** that you want to sow next year and place a Dobies order. Be brave and try at least one new variety – new often means improved.

These suggestion comes from "Ann's allotment & gardening jobs – December" which you might have guessed is on the Dobies website. Click here to read more.

THIS MONTH'S YOUTUBE TIP



Following a conversation on our Facebook group Marina has been in touch to tell us about the video diary she has started to keep track of the progress on the plot she took on in October 2024. To follow her progress and offer words of encouragement subscribe *(it is free)*. You can find the first videos here

---

Over the next few months we will be reporting on progress on matters arising from the Half-Yearly Meeting. To start with we take a look at a couple of things raised in the "Just A Minute" period.

From Quinton Association comes a plea for more information: The questions are linked in that individuals who are trying to manage their money sensibly have a right to know what happens to the money they hand over every year to the Allotments Department via the Associations, and to be able to challenge whether that money is used wisely and not wastefully

1. Concern about perpetual rent increases, which can be a deterrent to prospective tenants. Quinton Allotment faces competition from neighbouring authorities which charge less.

2. Do the Council provide a detailed breakdown of income and expenditure in relation to allotments?

3. There is a statutory obligation to provide allotments, but do other Local Authorities make allotments self-funding or are they subsidised?

BDAC will be taking these concerns forward and seek complete answers. Members of the team have already been seeking information and as BCC is local government there is a responsibility to reply to Freedom of Information requests

Many Birmingham Associations are signed up to the Kings Seed scheme via the NAS. Here Dave Hubball shares what works for them at Thornbridge Road. Site andf individual membership of the NSALG can pay for itself if you use King Seed.

It's so easy, catalogues arrive in August, members take them away and return their order, I generally send 2 orders, one early and a later one in November. Years ago my site used to do a totally combined order and spent hours sorting the resulting package using clothes airers with bags labelled so the relevant seeds went in, however now we simply get members to add the £1.65 individual packing charge and the order arrives with packages for each member who has

ordered. Collating the orders together is pretty straightforward and I made my own association nearly £100 this year simply for sorting the orders out, Kings are a great company to deal with and any problems that may arise are efficiently sorted out, the savings on seed costs can easily outweigh the current membership costs to the NSALG.

If you think you could help the team drop us a line @ secretary@bdacallotments.co.uk

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.