Please forward or share with as many plotholders as possible.

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MONTHLY ROUNDUP

BDAC

Serving Birmingham's Allotments

Birmingham & District Allotment Cooperative : 2025 July & August Issue 6

On The Plot

With the hot weather many sites have had to introduce water rationing. Lack of water has meant the end of some crops for some people. We were fortunate that other allotment holders kept our water butts topped up for us whilst we were away and did some watering for us.

We are celebrating a fantastic fig harvest and too many plums to cope with. The pantry shelves are lined with jars of Plum Jam and Fig & Plum Chutney.

With another heat wave promised and time being spent harvesting cucumbers and other salad crops (*unless all your lettuces have bolted*) it is difficult to switch focus to preparing for winter veg. We have planted 4 buckets of potatoes ready for Christmas and got the seed trays out ready for action.

Garden Organic (https://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/expert-advice/monthly-organic-gardening-advice/your-organic-garden-in-august/what-to-sow-and-plant-in-august)
has this extensive list to keep us busy.

Amaranth M - For leaf production
Chicory - Red and Sugarloaf
Chinese Cabbage M - Do not transplant from a seedbed - either sow direct or in modules
Kale M
Kohl rabi M
Lambs Lettuce or Corn Salad M - Very hardy winter salad with a soft texture and mild flavour. Lasts well throughout the winter, and when it flowers next spring the flowers can be eaten too.
Land cress or American cress M - Makes an excellent substitute for watercress and is very hardy, usually surviving even the toughest winter.
Winter Lettuce M - Sow winter varieties for harvesting in November and December.

Onions (autumn-sown Japanese onions) - Sow seed in August. Try Senshyu Yellow, or Keepwell to harvest next June. Sets can be planted in September.
Onions, salad - Winter varieties from August onwards.
Oriental greens
Pak Choi M
Peas - Last chance for autumn harvest. Sow a quick, 'early' variety such as Douce Provence or Meteor.
Radish, mooli
Radish, winter - Sow winter varieties such as China Rose and Black Spanish.
Rocket
Spinach perpetual M
Spring cabbage
Swiss or rainbow chard M
Turnip
Winter purslane, Claytonia or Miner's lettuce M - A very hardy winter salad. Produces small, mild tasting, succulent leaves. Sow direct until end of the month.
Note
M - these plants resent root disturbance and are best raised in module trays only

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Watch it on Youtube

Huw Richards, a sustainable gardener who is now promoting Pernmaculture as a gardening practice has published a book "The Permaculture Garden.

This video is 2 years old but still relevant.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vObZQJc38Gk

Site Competitions

All judging for the three competitions have now taken place and the 3 Trophy winners chosen. The results will be shared at the Half Yearly Meeting and all associations and individuals will be invited to attend so that certificates and Trophies can be awarded in person or to a representative.

There was a fantastic response to the relaunch and we are indebted to Robin, from the National Vegetable Society, who did the majority of the judging and helped rewrite the criteria for each competition.

Executive Feedback

The comments below are not an official record of any meeting. People who wish to check the approved minutes and a set of DRAFT minutes for the AGM may do so via the website.

There are a few days left to share your comments on the proposed new rules
< CLICK HERE > *(Proposed new rules & comment form)*

CLOSING DATE FOR COMMENTS 15th AUGUST 2025

FLO PICKERIN *et al.*

Some of you may have read the article in "Birmingham Live" - Full list of 14 Birmingham allotments where 'urgent improvements' are needed and been misled by some of the *"facts"* it contained. *(It would be nice to think only 14 sites needed improvement. Ed)* The sites listed are

Bleak Hill Allotments, Stockland Green
Bramble Hall Hayes Allotments, Shard End
Coney Green Allotments, Longbridge & West Heath
Coventry Road Allotments, Sheldon
Francis Road Allotments, Yardley West & Stechford
Greenaleigh Road Allotments, Billesley
Henlow Road Allotments, Highter's Heath
Pereira Road Allotments, Harborne
Pool Lane Allotments, Garretts Green

School Lane Allotments, Shard End
Shaftsbury Road Allotment, Sheldon
Strawberry Dene Selly Oak Allotments
Uffculme Highbury Park Allotments, Brandwood & King's Heath
Woodthorpe Road Allotments, Brandwood & King's Heath

Work was due to start the beginning of August but has once more been delayed and is now scheduled for September. Since the original submission some sites have found funding from other sources and this needs to be resolved.

Once the work has been completed and any remaining money calculated sites will be once more invited to apply.

Sixteen sites are already members of Birmingham Open Spaces Forum (BOSF) and now BDAC has joined to enable it to get help with funding for projects and to be part of a joint bid for a paid part-time worker.

The Executive are looking at ways of obtaining parity between the way in which the council supports groups that volunteer for activities such as litter picking and park maintenance and the 100s of volunteers that run the Birmingham sites.

The executive have now submitted the final draft of the of the Association Rules to the Financial Conduct Authority, having been checked for legality.

The Treasurer is still awaiting re-imbursement from the Council for the insurance but all sites are insured with Chris Knott Insurance.

This allotment year the secretary has received over 20 requests for help from tenants, including 6 for support in dealing with re-entry notices. There is an issue with associations failing to support tenants consistently and manage the sites according to the rules. A sub group is currently attempting to produce a new rule book and guidance to officers on how this should be managed for the benefit of plotholders and the association. If you have an issue you want to talk about contact secretary@bdacallotments.co.uk

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Everyone is welcome to this family-friendly festival celebrating creativity and local action for our shared planet.

Come along with friends and family and take part in creative workshops, join inspiring talks, enjoy live performances and much more.

The event is dedicated to families and BDAC will be there running activities for children and sharing the good news of allotments.

If you would like to get involved drop us your details to events@bdacallotments.co.uk. A willingness to help and talk to people about the benefits of the precious green space that is your plot is all that is needed.

26 October 2024 – 27 October 2024
Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham, B12 9QH

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