Please forward and share with as many plotholders as possible

MONTHLY ROUNDUP

BDAC

Serving Birmingham's Allotments

Birmingham & District Allotment Cooperative 2026 March Issue 11

On The Plot

A few nice days at the start of spring and the sites are coming to life. However, there is no real rush to get things in the ground yet. And if you do make sure you are ready with fleece and other protection to care for delicate plants. The possibility of frost here in Birmingham lasts till almost the end of April. Here are some ideas from the National Allotment Society as what we can be doing on our plots.

Vegetable Tasks

Undercover Sowing:
Greenhouses, cold frames, or cloches can be used to sow early cauliflower, broccoli, celery, early cabbage, and lettuce. This protects seedlings from frost and accelerates growth.

Broad Beans:
Sow directly in mild areas, or start undercover in colder regions. Consider trench planting and mulch with straw to protect against frost and birds.

Onions & Leeks:
Plant sets and seeds now; choose varieties suited to your local conditions. Onion sets are faster, but sowing seeds gives a wider variety.

Perennial Vegetables:
Establish horseradish, seakale, and asparagus beds now. Dividing older clumps helps rejuvenate the plants. Add compost or well-rotted manure when planting to boost soil fertility.

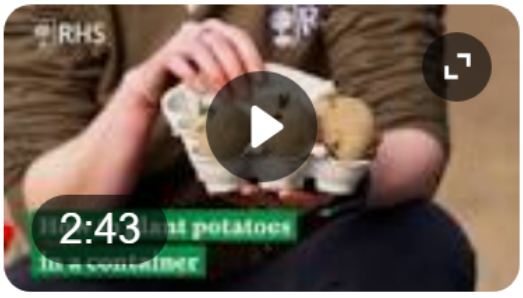
Spinach, Rocket & Salad Leaves:
Sow in sheltered spots or under cloches for an early spring harvest. Use fine netting to protect seedlings from pigeons.

Carrots & Potatoes:
Start early carrots under cloches. Plant early potatoes under cloches for a head start; choose certified seed potatoes to reduce disease risk.

Peas & Broad-Leafed Veg:
Sow hardy peas outdoors; consider early dwarf varieties for quicker cropping.

Read More

Watch it on Youtube



Growing Potatoes

You can grow potatoes in practically any container. They do not require new compost just a handful of feed when planted and plenty of water. This RHS shows the basics but if you want to delve deeper check out

When I took on my first plot I skimmed the weeds in the first 6", stacked the turfs at the side of the plot and then double digged the whole plot ready to plant potatoes. The logic was that I would end up digging the plot again later planting the potatoes and then again when harvest time came.
Being older and possibly wiser we now grow our potatoes in containers. A practice which separates "old

Tony O'Neil's comprehensive videos on this topic

school" and "new wave" perhaps more than any other.

Watch the Video

Executive Feedback

After a pleasing start to 2026 things seemed to have stalled on quite a few fronts.
Social Prescribing at Bordesley Green has stalled again
Talks with the BCC about the Rules are not taking place. The Executive are still waiting for BCC to set another date.
The revised rules sent to FCA are currently still awaiting approval.

Flo Pickering work is continuing at sites around the city with varying amounts of success. Once the last 4 sites are completed it will be possible to work out how much money is remaining and the bids will be re-opened.

BDAC now have a large number of "Draft Policies" available on the website for Associations to download and edit. You can find them under Resources | Policy Hub. There is also space available for individual associations to store and share information about their site and policies without having to become IT experts in web management.
If you would like to be involved in keeping your data accurate on the website please get in touch with webmaster@bdacallotments.co.uk

Plans to re-introduce a flower, fruit and vegetable show is unlikely this year.
Details of the 2026 site competitions are below.
New training sessions are being launched this year, see below.

Feel free to share your suggestions, opinion and comments about anything BDAC on our Feedback page.

Committee Roles and Governance

Saturday 18th April 10.30-1.30pm Venue: May Lane Allotments, Kings Heath, B14 4AG

Find out more

Dealing with Difficult Issues

Saturday 25th April 10.30-1.30pm Venue: Northleigh Road Allotments, Ward End, B8 2QL

Find out more

Visit Ryton organic demonstration garden - 25th April 2026

Discover how to grow delicious organic food, including fascinating heritage varieties. Our expert gardening team will be on hand during the open day to share their knowledge and practical advice on tackling common gardening challenges, such as natural pest control and water-wise techniques.

Visit the website

Site Competitions

+ The Robins Trophy

In addition to the three Competitions held in 2025, Best Site, Best Plot and Best Newcomer, this year sees the return of the Robins Trophy for the most improved site. The judging criteria are available to read and download from our website. Whilst some of the competitions entries can only be submitted by the Association Secretary, individuals may enter their own plot.

Find out more

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