

Eden Allotment Gardens New Plotolders Guide

Welcome.

Allotment sites are friendly places. Many gardeners come to their allotment to enjoy the peace and quiet, but if you are looking for gardening advice you'll probably find someone who's glad of a chat. Please help us to make our allotments sites, attractive, safe places where people can enjoy gardening. To help us do this we would ask you to remember that:

- 1) You have a duty of care to other people in the site. Please show consideration for your plot neighbours and visitors to the site
- 2) You are responsible for properly supervising any children who come with you onto the site
- 3) You must keep any pets under control at all times
- 4) Your allotment garden needs regular attention to keep it tidy and productive
- 5) You must garden in accordance with the conditions of your Tenancy Agreement.

We hope you enjoy your allotment garden and would like to wish you 'Happy Gardening.' However, if you are new to gardening and allotments please take a look at the following ten steps to developing your allotment plot:

- 1) Rotavation of plots is usually carried out between October and February, subject to grounds conditions and access.
- 2) When you start your allotment don't try and do it all at once. Cover over a portion of the garden to kill off any weeds and just cultivate a portion of the land that you feel comfortable with at the beginning.
- 3) Dig in early. If possible, turn the soil in autumn, as the winter frosts will break down the clods of soil. If not, do it in spring, but you will have to break the soil down yourself.
- 4) Buy good quality seeds and plants to avoid disappointment. Talk to other allotment holders and swap your seeds this helps reduce your costs.
- 5) For the best crops, do your research! Know when to plant. Ask other allotment holders for advice. Visit our website at www.edenallotments.co.uk.
- 6) With non-storable crops it is best to plant a little but often, say one row at a time to avoid waste.
- 7) Be sure to thin crops out as they grow to avoid clustering. This will result in better quality plants.
- 8) Pick crops quickly, early and often. Enjoy the food whilst it's fresh. You'll enjoy it so much more and will help you to keep your enthusiasm.
- 9) Tackle problems promptly. The worst thing you can do is leave a problem. There is help available; speak to other allotment holders who will be only too happy to help.
- 10) Be green!! compost, green material and kitchen waste like egg shells and vegetable peelings in the bin at your allotment. Compost is great for your plants.

For further information please contact the Allotment Section 028 93358039

or visit www.edenallotments.co.uk