



DISCOURAGING RATS AT THE ALLOTMENT SITE IS EVERYBODY'S RESPONSIBILITY

PLEASE FOLLOW THIS ADVICE TO HELP PREVENT THEM MAKING YOUR PLOT THEIR HOME

1. Turn the contents of your compost bin regularly (at least twice per year) This not only disturbs any rats that have taken up residence but also aerates your compost heap.
2. Compost bins should be given a small gauge wire mesh lining at the base or placed on paving slabs to prevent rats burrowing in underneath.
3. Regularly kick your compost bin to ensure it's not a peaceful place for rats to sleep and check they are not making sheds etc their home.
4. Household waste-----Never put meat, dairy, bones, cooked food or other inappropriate items in the compost.
5. Harvest ripe fruit and vegetables promptly, take them home to enjoy before something else eats them.
6. Do not leave discarded fruit and veg on the ground as these are a source of food for rats and other pests. Clear them away to your compost bin.
7. Keep your plot tidy and ensure that allotment gardens do not become overgrown or allow rubbish to build up e.g timber, old carpet etc as this provides cover for rats to live under.
8. Any produce with signs of rat damage should be destroyed. Rats carry the risk of Weil's disease, Salmonella and Leptospirosis among other things.
9. Sheds etc should be kept secure and not allow access to rats and mice. Check also rats are not living underneath.
10. Finally, **NO RAT POISON SHOULD BE USED ON THE ALLOTMENT SITE**