

Newsletter Autumn 2017

Welcome to the online version of the TAA Newsletter

Gardening Tips

We hope you have had an enjoyable and productive summer at the allotments. As you harvest your crops and clear away spent plants there will be space for some autumn and winter crops.

Crops to Grow Now

There is still time to sow carrots, turnips, spinach and Swiss chard. Spring cabbage plants can be planted now but it is a little too late to raise them from seed. A last batch of salad vegetables including lettuces, rocket and radishes can also be sown now.

October is a good month to plant overwintering varieties of onion and garlic sets as well as broad beans. It is also a good time to plant bare root fruit bushes, such as currants and gooseberries, and rhubarb plants.

Growing Strawberries



July to September is the best time to plant new strawberry plants or your own runners as soon as they have rooted. If you are thinking of establishing a strawberry bed you may find that one of your allotment neighbours has more rooted runners than they know what to do with!

Strawberries grow best in full sun, on light, well-drained, fertile soil with a slightly acid pH of 6-6.5. They should be planted in a bed where strawberries have not been grown for at least three years. Only let the plants fruit lightly in the first year after planting. Early in the season cut off runners to encourage the production of more fruit.

In spring, and again after cropping, remove any dead, diseased, or damaged leaves from established plants. After three seasons a new bed should be established.

Starting the Autumn Clear Up

It is so much nicer to do as much as possible of the autumn clear up in September and October than to find yourself in a rush to prepare for spring when the weather is cold and wet and miserable!

- Clear away dead foliage and spent plants as soon as crops have finished and add everything you can to your compost heap provided there are no signs of disease.
- Take down supports used for climbing beans, peas and tomatoes when they are no longer needed.
- Cut down summer raspberry canes and support the new canes which will provide next year's fruit and start pruning your fruit bushes.
- As soon as your beds become clear begin digging them over and removing all the weed roots.